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Champion
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Young footballers' big night out

Pupils get close to nature

Cinema group sign 15–year lease to 'anchor' town centre development

By **Henry James**

REPRESENTATIVES from St Modwen, Reel Cinemas and West Lancs Council met this week to celebrate the cinema group signing a 15–year lease.

The company has completed the lease agreement with St Modwen, confirming the independent cinema operator as the anchor leisure tenant of the developer's plans for Skelmersdale town centre.

The deal is a boost for the proposed £10m scheme, which it is claimed will bring 500 jobs and 50,000 sq ft of retail, leisure and entertainment space to Skelmersdale, introducing a new night–time economy. St Modwen say the scheme will "transform" the town centre.

Councillors granted planning consent to St Modwen's plans in March of this year.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper welcomed the signing of the lease but warned against any further delays or obstructions to realising the vision for a new town centre.

She said: "The redevelopment of Skelmersdale town centre is a vital part of making Skelmersdale a 21st century town.

"As I have said previously it is now time for this vision to be realised. It is what the people of Skelmersdale have been promised and it is what they deserve.

"Reel Cinemas' commitment to a long–term, 15–year lease is a positive step but only when the diggers are on site and

• Continued on Page 3

FURY OVER THREAT TO COLLEGE JOBS

Motivational speaker booked to address tutors hours after they were told of possible redundancies

Report by **Henry James**

A MOTIVATIONAL speaker was booked to give a presentation to tutors at West Lancashire College just hours after the same tutors had been told they faced compulsory redundancies.

Up to 20 jobs are under threat at the college, which has sites in Skelmersdale and Ormskirk, due "to changes in funding across the further education sector."

Bosses are also looking at the college's A Level provision.

One tutor, who asked to remain anonymous, told the Champion: "We were initially told about the possible compulsory redundancies on April 7 and before the presentation principal Maria Gelling played a CD of birds tweeting, which we thought was inappropriate.

"And the same day she had also booked a motivational speaker which again eyebrows were raised at. We are all intelligent people and that was not a good way to do it."

The disgruntled tutor also claims that Ms Gelling had informed staff about a deficit in college funds via a video selfie while she was giving a presentation last September.

And he said staff were angry about the delay between being told about the possible redundancies in April and the formal notification being sent out this month.

He added: "At the presentation in April one of the union reps asked when would we know more. She said within a week or two, but it was not until eight weeks later that we received the formal notification."

The tutor also claimed that A Level courses could be scrapped at the college.

"The A Level tutors are going. The first year students will be allowed to complete their second year but the college won't be taking on any new students after that.

"We have been told that there is no need for A Levels in this area. I don't know how to take that."

Maria Gilling said: "Due to changes in funding across the FE sector and a need to realign our staffing and provision to meet local need, we have had to make some changes regarding the future structure of the college which could result in 20 job losses.

West Lancashire College's Skemersdale campus

"We are currently involved in consultation with college staff, including a review of the A Levels that will be available in the future. We are committed to our current A Level learners.

"We understand that this is a very stressful time for staff, learners and their families and we will ensure they receive every support possible."

Answering claims that the A Level courses are going, a spokesperson for the college commented: "Following a detailed review, we will no longer offer AS Level provision from September 2015. However, we remain committed to the success of our current A Level learners."

The college confirmed that there was a motivational speaker but pointed out this was part of a full staff conference.

The spokesperson added that the CD of birds tweeting was used as it was a spring conference.

In September 2011, the college moved to a new £42.8 million campus in Skelmersdale.

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Councils dismiss campaign group's 'huge assets' claim

Report by **Henry James**

A REPORT by campaign group the TaxPayers' Alliance which accuses local authorities – including West Lancs Borough Council and Lancashire County Council – of sitting on "huge assets" while pleading poverty, has been dismissed as misleading.

According to the alliance, which describes itself as a 'grassroots campaigning group dedicated to reforming taxes, cutting spending and protecting taxpayers', West Lancs Council is the owner of a golf course, 44 car parks, a swimming pool/leisure centre, a farm, a pub, two shopping centres, a hotel and a factory!

Meanwhile, the report also claims that Lancashire County Council owns a car park, 13 farms, a theatre, a pub, a restaurant and a hotel.

However, borough council bosses said the authority does NOT own a farm, pub or hotel, while a county council spokesman also refuted claims that it owns a hotel, theatre, pub or restaurant. It is believed the venues referred to may be council–run facilities which are licensed to sell alcohol and/or refreshments.

Jonathan Isaby, chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said: "It looks deeply hypocritical for councils to plead poverty as an excuse for hiking council tax when they've got such a huge asset portfolio. Local authorities should be focussed on essential services.

"The time has come for a serious discussion on what councils should, and should not, be doing – a drastic re–think which saw many of these assets returned to the private sector, where some of them clearly belong, would be a dramatic step towards a balanced budget and protecting taxpayers."

A borough council spokesman said: "West Lancashire Borough Council owns a number of land and property assets most of which are council dwellings. The majority of the remaining assets (such as the golf course and the meeting rooms) were transferred from the Skelmersdale Development Corporation. These properties generally have restrictions on their use, together with an obligation on the council to repay to the government a percentage of any capital receipt if the asset were to be sold.

"These income–producing assets were transferred to the council as part of a balancing package to meet the costs of the land which was also transferred and had ongoing liabilities, such as tree management and footpath repairs.

"The council has a policy known as the Strategic Asset Management Project which considers all its land and property holdings and challenges if they could be better used or whether a disposal would be the preferred option. To date, the council has achieved receipts of £393,200 which have been spent on capital programmes.

"Finally, to clarify, the council does NOT own a farm or a pub or a hotel."

And a spokesperson for Lancashire County Council commented: "The TaxPayers' Alliance has misinterpreted the information provided to them. The county council does not own a hotel, a theatre, a pub or a restaurant. To give a concrete example of the lack of rigour in the research, the hotel they claim we own is the Park Hotel building in Preston, which was last used as a hotel in 1950."

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Cinema group signs 15–year lease to 'anchor' town centre scheme

• continued from page 1

"work begins will residents have confidence that this long promised redevelopment scheme will happen.

"At present we have two competing proposals from St Modwen and the Concourse Shopping Centre. All along I've said that the Concourse is an important part of a vibrant town centre.

"What we need now is for St Modwen and the Concourse owners to deliver the best outcome for the town. A scheme that puts the interests of the residents first. A scheme in which everyone wins.

"For too long the shoppers of Skelmersdale have voted with their feet and wallets going outside of the town to shop, go to the cinema or to a restaurant.

"My ambition continues to be a redevelopment of the entire town centre that gives Skelmersdale a vibrant heart that residents will use and can enjoy."

St. Modwen has been working in partnership with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the borough council since 2007 for the delivery of a comprehensive regeneration scheme in Skelmersdale town centre.

The Empire in Elson Road, which closed in the 1980s, is believed to have been the last cinema in Skelmersdale.

PICTURED: Steven Knowles, regional director at St Modwen, Naveen Suri, managing director designate of Reel Cinemas, Muhammad Faisal, operations manager at Reel Cinemas, Councillor Ian Moran, leader of West Lancs Council and Councillor Frank McKenna, West Lancs Council's champion for economic regeneration.

Next six weeks is key to town's short–term economic future – claim

Report by **Henry James**

THE short–term economic future of Skelmersdale will be decided during the next six weeks, according to West Lancs Council's economic development champion, Councillor Frank McKenna.

After Reel Cinema signed a 15–year lease as part of St Modwen's plans for the town centre, Cllr. McKenna confirmed that a further dozen major retail and leisure groups were on course to sign up for a project that he said will potentially lead to:

• The creation of up to 500 jobs.
• A retail and leisure offer that will establish a genuine night–time economy for the town.
• A revitalised Tawd Valley that will be at the heart of the scheme.
• More than £8 million in new spend to help grow the Skelmersdale economy.
• The development of up to 900 additional houses across the town.

Cllr. McKenna said: "After too many years of waiting, the people of Skelmersdale can finally look forward to this project starting later this year and being completed in 2018.

"MP Rosie Cooper, the development partner St Modwen and the borough and county councils have worked tirelessly to bring this exciting plan to fruition and I am delighted to see how much progress has now been made, particularly since January."

However, he warned that there was still one potential hurdle for the project to overcome – a Judicial Review of the scheme which may be triggered by the owners of the Concourse Shopping Centre, London & Cambridge.

POTENTIAL

Cllr. McKenna added: "Having taken years to get to within a whisker of delivering what will be the biggest thing Skem has seen, we now have to wait with bated breath to see if this proposal is challenged by the owners of the Concourse

"I will be disappointed if that happens, not least because this new regeneration scheme can only benefit the Concourse in the future. With the additional footfall this initiative will bring to the town, the jobs and the additional cash that will be circulating in the local economy, I believe the existing shopping centre would be shooting itself in the foot to oppose these plans – while confining Skelmersdale to a further period of frustration, uncertainty and economic decline.

"I don't think the community of Skelmersdale will either forgive or forget easily anyone who gets in the way of our best chance to put our town on the map for the right reasons."

Cllr. McKenna also confirmed that work is already underway to secure as many of the new jobs that will be created for local people and that the council have plans to market the town's economic development potential more aggressively in future years.

He added: "West Lancashire is at the heart of the government's Northern Powerhouse agenda, located 30 minutes away from the North West's two major economic hubs of Manchester and Liverpool. It is a fantastic borough to locate a business and to invest in.

"It is a great place to live, work, rest and play. We haven't told that story well enough in recent times – but we will do going forward."

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Skem firm's banners help promote safety campaign

Jonathan Berry (right) of Envision Media with firefighters at Skelmersdale fire station and one of their campaign banners.
Code1081246

A SKELMERSDALE company is playing a major role in a campaign which aims to raise awareness of the dangers of swimming in open water.

Envision Media, based at Westgate, have produced a number of banners to publicise Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service's 'Dying For A Dip' projects which highlights the danger of open–water swimming, particularly in the summer months when temperatures rise.

The banners will be placed at a number of sites, including Skelmersdale Fire Station and the Dawber Delph quarry at Appley Bridge where 13–year–old Miracle Godson lost his life while swimming with friends earlier this year.

Firefighters, community safety advocates and partners have been delivering the education package in schools across the county and they estimate that thousands of secondary school pupils and some community groups have received the package in full or in part.

Frank Robinson, fire service delivery manager for West Lancashire, said: "The risks of jumping into open water are extremely high as the water can often be very cold. W are working with our partner agencies on this scheme, including the police, and the campaign will last throughout the summer months."

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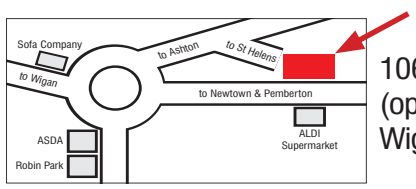

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County councillor backs 'benefits check' campaign

Joint initiative aims to ensure elderly residents receive what they are entitled to

By **Henry James**

A LOCAL county councillor is backing a campaign aimed at identifying elderly residents who might not be receiving all the benefits they are entitled to.

Julie Gibson, county councillor for Skelmersdale West, has praised the 'benefits check' campaign launched by Lancashire County Council's welfare rights unit in partnership with West Lancs Borough Council.

Nearly 2,500 over–75s who receive some help towards their rent or council tax payments have already been identified and will soon start to receive letters advising them of any extra assistance they may be entitled to.

Cllr. Gibson said: "From this week elderly residents who have been identified by West Lancs Council will receive a letter and a flyer in the post inviting them to fill in the tear–off coupon and send it back to Lancashire Welfare Rights for a benefits check.

County councillor Gibson

"The team will be working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions visiting service to make sure we help as many people as we can to get the help they need. I would urge all those who receive a form to fill it in and send it back."

Similar take–up campaigns across Preston and Lancaster city councils have generated an extra £985,000 per year in income for residents who replied to the letters.

Cllr. Gibson said: "Before I joined the county council I participated in a number of these campaigns when I worked in the Merseyside Voluntary Sector. The benefit they bring, not just in monetary value, to residents and local communities is vital to improving the health and wellbeing of some of our most vulnerable residents."

And she added: "I'd just like to reassure residents that this is a genuine campaign.

"It's possible that there are many elderly residents not receiving their full entitlement, the aim of the campaign is to make sure that they do."

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Dancer holds charity night in memory of tragic boyfriend

Report by **Henry James**

A PROFESSIONAL dancer from Skelmersdale whose boyfriend died suddenly from an undiagnosed heart condition two–and–a–half years ago is staging a circus–themed entertainment event to raise money for a charity that promotes and develops heart screening programmes and funds medical research into young sudden cardiac death.

Former Up Holland High School pupil, Jessica Hill and Matt Beadle had been together for four years, after meeting on a blind date arranged by a mutual friend, when tragedy struck.

Thirty–two–year–old Matt, who had just landed a dream job on a production 'Starlight Express' in Germany, was on a stag do in Las Vegas when he just didn't wake up one morning. An autopsy revealed he had died from sudden adult death syndrome.

Jess, 27, was understandably heartbroken.

She said: "Losing Matt like that with no warning signs was devastating. One day you have everything to live for and the next it feels like you've got nothing."

Following Matt's death, Jess has worked with charity Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) which helps provide ECG tests for people who have cardiac problems in their family, experience symptoms or are just worried. She has also persuaded her friends and family to get tested.

Proceeds from her event, to be held at Ormskirk Civic Hall on Friday (June 19), will go to CRY.

Jessica is shown with Matt

She added: "Since Matt's death, I've been very proactive through CRY in raising awareness of this condition which can be detected by a simple ECG."

Entitled Bam Bam's Summer Circus, Jess's fundraiser will feature roller–skating routines from 'Starlight Express', leading aerial artists, West End singers and Burlesque Idol finalists, Whisky Falls.

Doors open at 6pm and the entertainment starts at 7pm.

Tickets for the event are available from Ormskirk Civic Hall on 01695 578788.

Special guests help U3A group celebrate 10th anniversary

Some of the special guests who attended the 10th anniversary of Up Holland U3A
Code1081083

MEMBERS of the Up Holland & District branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A) celebrated the group's 10th anniversary with a packed day of activities attended by a number of special guests.

Held at their base, St Teresa's hall and church grounds in College Road, the opening ceremony was witnessed by the mayors of West Lancashire and Wigan, along with the U3A officials, Pam Jones, Sue Watkinson and Jenny Carley and the West Lancs town crier.

Guests were then entertained to a full programme of events including drama sketches, music, poetry and a tai chi demonstration.

A gazebo was also set up in the rear garden for a plant stalls and a a flower arranging display, while other groups represented included the Beacon Park Rangers, Age UK and Skelmersdale Community Food Initiative.

Alma Harrison, publicity officer for Up Holland & District U3A, said: "It was very busy all day. I want to thank the members for their continued support and interest. It showed what old people can still do. Everything seemed to flow seamlessly and the day was rounded off with the cutting of two very large birthday cakes!"

Council cabinet discuss future of former Tanhouse office

COUNCILLORS were set to discuss the future of the former Tanhouse office at 192–198 Ennerdale at a meeting of West Lancs Council's cabinet last night (Tuesday, June 16).

Bob Livermore, the council's assistant director of housing and regeneration, is recommending that the authority be allowed to grant a lease, at a peppercorn rent, to the Tanhouse Community Enterprise Ltd.

The future of the building has been considered at a number of meetings in the past and a report for the January cabinet meeting recommended that the building be demolished but a decision was deferred.

Now Mr Livermore has received a business plan from the Tanhouse Community Enterprise Ltd. to convert the property back to residential accommodation entailing the reconstruction of the internal layout of each dwelling and the installation of a kitchen and bathroom.

He wants the cabinet to delegate the decision to him to agree to a lease of the property to Tanhouse Community Enterprise Ltd subject to being satisfied, following further evaluation, that the scheme proposed is viable.

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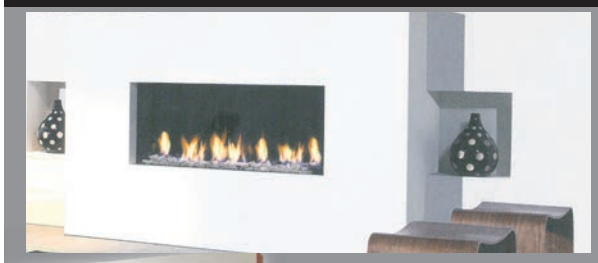

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Festival 'high flyers' back at Beacon Park

Members of the Northern Kite Group at last year's festival Code1070269

THE 10th annual Beacon Country Park Kite Festival takes place this year on Sunday, June 21 starting at 10am.

Because of the park's unique position, overlooking much of Cheshire and Merseyside, kites flown here can be seen for miles.

The festival is presented by the Northern Kite Group in association with the West Lancashire Ranger Service and admission is free.

On display will be kites of every shape and size, including large inflatable animals, oriental kites, bird kites, stunt kites and the traditional Altitude Sprints, which are a race to the sky.

Len Royles, Northern Kite Group chairman, said: "A kite festival offers fun and entertainment for all the family. As well as watching the kites on display, there is plenty of space for families to fly their own kites and if the public wish to purchase a kite a good selection is available from the kite stall."

A new highlight of the day, particularly for young children, will be a supervised mass fly of Rainbow Delta Kites in the arena.

The Northern Kite Group will loan 20 of the kites out and experienced kite flyers will ensure each child has an experience to remember.

Report by **Henry James**

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Glittering event for young footballers

FORMER England stars Chris Lawler and David Johnson were special guests when the Skelmersdale Junior Football League held their annual presentation at Up Holland Labour Club.

The league, which has been running for 43 years, caters for more than 1,000 youngsters representing 70 teams throughout the area.

Also present at the awards ceremony were new Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy and fellow councillors Neil Furey and Terry Alderidge.

Last season the league staged around 1,700 games in total at Liverpool Road and Blaguegate, and some 450 medals and 100 cups were handed out to winners and runners–up.

In addition, all those youngsters who didn't win a prize were presented with a participation medal, formerly known as the Seldon's Award.

Jon Trenwith, secretary and league assessor for Skelmersdale Junior Football League, said: "I would like to thank the borough and county councils for their help and the residents around Liverpool Road and Blaguegate playing fields for their understanding. I would also like to thank the mayor.

"It was a very successful year for the junior league and testament to our groundsman that he was able to provide pitches which were fit for purpose each week.

"We had fewer games called off than last year and we also had fewer games called off than other local football leagues – including semi–professional outfits."

The league's annual general meeting will be held at Up Holland Labour Club on Thursday, June 25, starting at 8pm and the games will kick–off again on the first Sunday in September.

Specials guests Chris Lawler, David Johnson and Councillor Neil Furey with some of the prizewinners and the trophies at the Skelmersdale Junior Football League awards ceremony.

Youth group leader hosts 'thank–you' lunch for supporting agencies

Report by **Henry James**

A SPECIAL 'thank–you' lunch was held by officials of Skelmersdale Action For Youth (SAY) for all the agencies who have helped the youth group over the last 12 years.

The lunch was the idea of SAY co–ordinator Alan Lewis to show the group's appreciation for the support they have received on initiatives including the conferences on danger zone, anti–bullying, anti social behaviour and domestic violence in young people's relationships.

Alan, who also took the opportunity to display his MBE and scroll that he received from Buckingham Palace for his work on behalf of the youth of Skelmersdale, said it was great to catch up with many of the agencies' representatives including chief superintendent James Lee, inspector June Chessell, James Proctor, Sue Hogan and Stacey Davies.

Agencies represented at the get–together were the Community Foundation for Lancashire, the Crown Prosecution Service, Lancashire Police, Artz, Lancashire Fire and Rescue, the NHS, Wigan Community Trust, the Lancashire Crime Commissioner, ICAN, the Sunshine Club, the Birchwood Centre, the CVS, local schools and colleges, the Evermoor Hub Community Centre and the Young People Service.

The occasion also saw SAY receive another accolade from the county's police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw and the assistant chief constable for their the hard work in the area.

Working in close partnership with the police and through funding support from the commissioner's Community Grant Programme, SAY have provided a range of positive activities aimed at getting young people in the town 'off the streets.'

Alan Lewis of Skelmersdale Action for Youth is shown with Chief Supt. James Lee, Inspector June Chessell and members of the Neighbourghood Team Digmoor

CREATIVE

These include four canoeing courses in the last six months at Nye Bevan Pool. In all, 26 young people, accompanied by two adults (a member from SAY and a local police officer from Skelmersdale) completed the course with the participants gaining both one and two–star qualifications.

The group also organised a two–hour Crazy Carts session in Ormskirk as part of the Halifax Building Society Big Lunch with mnore than 75 young people participating.

Throughout the summer holidays SAY will continue to run a number of creative activities at Nye Bevan Pool, as well the Friday night Crazy Carts sessions.

Alan Lewis said: "We would especially ike to thank the Community Foundation for Lancashire, the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's Fund and Lancashire Police Early action Team Support for their help with funding."

henry.james@champnews.com

Library transformed for Learning Disability Week

SKELMERSDALE library was transformed into a sea of music, dance and colour on Tuesday (June 16) to mark this year's national Learning Disability Week (June 15 to 21).

The annual campaign aims to tackle the myths and misconceptions about learning disability that fuel prejudice and inequality and Lancashire County Council teamed up with Lancashire Learning Disability Partnership to run events at five libraries across the county.

The event at the Skelmersdale library in Southway ran from 10am to noon and featured dance performances and craft workshops designed to highlight the talents of people with learning disabilities and help to make people aware of many of the issues they face every day.

County Councillor Tony Martin, Lancashire's cabinet member for adult and community services, said: "People with learning disabilities have so much to contribute to their communities and to employers, yet they can often experience discrimination, hate crime and suffer health inequalities, leading to a life expectancy 16 years less than the rest of the population.

"We hope that events like this will help to break down barriers and make a difference to the lives of people with learning disabilities here in Lancashire."

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Ladies support bra bank appeal

A LINGERIE shop owner was inundated after appealing for customers to donate their unwanted bras for charity.

Katie Givens, co–owner of Pandora's Box in Wheatsheaf Walk, Ormskirk, offered a free fitting and up to £5 off a new bra for customers taking part in her 'bra bank' appeal.

And the result was more than 1,500 bras being handed in which will be passed on to recycling organisation BCR Textiles who sort them before sending them on to be sold for nominal amounts to women in Third World countries who either do not have access to or are unable to afford new garments.

The proceeds of the sales are then donated to a charity of the donor's choice.

Katie said: "Last year we collected between 1,200 and 1,300 used bras from our generous customers and we were hoping to beat that number this year.

"And the bra bank has been an even bigger success – women have come in in their droves and we have collected more than 1,500 bras! We're very pleased with the response and by people's generosity."

Katie chose The Cystic Fibrosis Trust as her nominated charity, as her four–year–old son Jude, suffers from the genetic disorder which mostly affects the lungs and can result in sufferers finding it hard to breathe and digest food.

Katie Givens (centre) and colleagues Jessica Muirhead and Jackie Wood with some of the donated bras.

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Chicken Tikka Tandoori	£4.50	£5.50
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Veg Kebab	£2.50	£3.50

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Chicken Burger	£2.60	£3.60
Chicken Fillet Burger	£2.90	£3.90
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Half Chicken with Rice	£6.50

EXTRAS

	Reg	Lge
Chips	£1.20	£1.80
Cheese and Chips	£1.80	£2.40
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Chicken, Chips and Cheese		£2.50
Chips, Cheese and Beans		£2.40
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Primary pupils set to get closer to nature

The youngsters who are taking part in the scheme

YEAR 6 pupils at a local primary school will be getting closer to nature when they take part in an award scheme that encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration.

This is the fourth consecutive year that youngsters at St James' Catholic Primary School in Ashurst have taken part in the accredited scheme, named after a pioneering conservationist, born in 1838, who had a deep love of the natural world around his home in Dunbar, Scotland.

The John Muir Trust, set up in 1998 to promote his legacy and encourage participation in conservation, is supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

As part of the scheme the children will undertake four days of practical work at Beacon Country Park made up of four elements – discover, explore, share and conserve – which they have to record in a log book.

However, before they begin the school has to submit a proposal form of how they will cover the four elements to the award.

Ann Falkner from Plantlife, based at The National Wild Flower Centre in Liverpool, will lead the four practical days at Beacon Park.

Dave Iliff, headteacher at St James', said: "The beauty of this work is that it can take place in such a beautiful open space on our doorstep."

Once the pupils have completed their follow–up work in class, the log books will be sent away to The John Muir Centre in Scotland to be assessed before certificates are sent out.

These will then be presented back in school to the children before they make the transition to Our Lady Queen of Peace High School.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

CHAMPION NEWSPAPERS
Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 0QA
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Misguided to claim the dumping of three million tons of toxic waste would be a benefit to the area

RE: 'Whitemoss report has all the answers' (Champion, June 10) this letter is the incoherent ramblings of a misguided soul who obviously has some connection with Whitemoss landfill. Only such a person would consider the dumping of three million tons of toxic waste a benefit to the area.

What he refers to is not a report, it a 24–page document stating the minister's reasons for accepting the report of the Planning Inspectorate (which is 221 pages long).

This minister had only been in post for 10 days after the general election. Was this sufficient time for him to become competent to read and understand the report that took six months of hearings and three months of deliberation by the Planning Inspectorate to prepare?

As Mr. Bennett has patently not read the report, or the evidence presented to the inspectorate, let me remind him of just four of the points the report did not answer.

1. Scientific evidence that tips eventually leak, seems to be conveniently ignored.

2. Waste categories on Whitemoss's licence application (quoted from their own website) will include the following as defined by the Environment Agency:

H7 Carcinogenic, Carc. Cat. 1, 2 & 3 – 'Carcinogenic' substances and preparations which, if they are inhaled or ingested or if they penetrate the skin, may induce cancer or increase its incidence.

H11 Mutagenic, Muta. Cat. 1, 2 and 3 – 'Mutagenic' substances and preparations which, if they are inhaled or ingested or if they penetrate the skin, may induce hereditary genetic defects or increase their incidence.

The report makes no mention of what will happen when these eventually leak.

3. Evidence from the Department of Health, which appears on the Environmental Health Atlas website, clearly shows that the incidence of several diseases –including cancers, heart disease, kidney disease and lung diseases – are much higher than the national average in West Lancashire, particularly in the parishes nearest to the tip. This has been glossed over as just 'health fears' – pretty real if you ask me.

4. The UK has signed up to EU conventions on toxic waste disposal so why do we then completely ignore this and go in the opposite direction? Not answered!

I would ask Mr. Bennett to make himself aware of the facts before he uses the press to promote the cause of Whitemoss Landfill.

Barry Carr,
address supplied

PICTURE of the week

www.champnews.com/pixonline

Timeless traditions: The start of last Saturday's annual Walking Day hosted by Tarleton Holy Trinity Church when nearby churches joined together for an Ecumenical Walk of Witness through the village. Picture by Martyn Snape. Code: 1081478.

If Labour programme means better life for our community I'm all for it

IT was entertaining reading the words of Councillor Westley quoted in Henry James's report in the Champion (June 3).

Cllr. Westley turned the election of the new Labour leader of the council, the result of a democratic process, into a 'coup' and the fact that the cabinet contains trade unionists apparently warrants the description of 'stuffed' instead of appointed.

Further, apparently it's enough to be 'left wing' and 'socialist' to be "in breach of the Trades Description Act"!

Instead the councillor praises 'moderate ex–Lib–Dems'. I wonder why?

But it's a moot point whether moderation is always a good thing and whether left–wing socialists are a bad thing, after all it was left–wing socialists who brought our National Health Service into being at the end of the Second World War.

And apparently, growing the local economy, creating better job opportunities and protecting front–line services via a range of partnerships is dismissed by Cllr. Westley as 'socialist dogma' and 'growing the council'!

Well, I for one, am delighted to hear of the Labour administration's programme and if it means paying a bit more council tax, it's worth it for the sake of everyone getting a better life in this community.

Diana Jones,
by email

Chance to get it off your chest

We want your views

IF you've got a point of view about a topic of local or national interest and want to 'get it off your chest', we want to hear from you.

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words long, and should include the name, address and a contact telephone number, or email address, of the sender for the purpose of clarification, although not necessarily for publication.

Submissions, marked 'Letters to the editor', can be posted or handed in to Champion Newspapers, Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA or sent via email to editorial@champnews.com.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Council needs to look at changes to Ormskirk town centre

WITH Asda resportedly taking an interest in the warehouse down by Halfords, which will be vacant in the near future, West Lancs Council needs to look at Ormskirk town centre, which is becoming more and more empty of key shops.

Firstly, the work on the main thoroughfare in the town is taking a long time to complete so people who shop there tend to look elsewhere if they find shopping difficult. And if they find somewhere else to shop, you usually lose them for good.

Secondly, on the subject of car–parking, if Asda do locate at this place the parking will be free, like across the road from them at Halfords etc., so what is needed is a review of parking in the town.

Perhaps the car–parks within the town could become free for two hours and the car park at Burscough Street become a paying long–stay for people who need to park all day. This would help pay towards the rest.

Thirdly, students who attend the university who are not local should be accommodated within the university site and so will not interfere with the local housing, as is happening now. Because they would be on site, the university could discourage car use and promote public transport use instead and students could come into town for R & R and not interfere with the local infastructure.

Stephen Bennett,
Ashurst

Amazed at this 'stupid' system

I WAS astonished to find recently that West Lancashire Borough Council will not allow you to live in their sheltered accommodation without a next of kin address. If you move into sheltered accommodation, they then ask for this information and if you cannot supply it they threaten you with eviction.

It seems that they have boxes to tick and if your next of kin is dead and has no phone number, they threaten you with eviction.

They don't seem to realise that the dead don't have telephones or they're genuinely incapable of free thinking outside their tick boxes.

It amazes me how stupid this system of theirs really is. I know they want a name and address to contact if aything happens to you because it absolves them of any responsibility, but they take it to ludicrous lengths including harrassing you for details that don't exist and for some odd reason the law allows them to do this.

They've turned sheltered accommodation into an exclusive club and disbar anyone who doesn't tick all their little boxes and they pat themselves on the back for doing a good job.

They don't care about those who don't tick the boxes and there are many people in West Lancs living in unsuitable accommodation because of it.

People with no next of kin aren't counted in ones and twos in this area, there are hundreds if not thousands of them. For some it's because relatives died and for some it may be for legal reasons they cannot fill in the information.

But to this callous uncaring regime it doesn't matter, the wardens drive nice cars and have a cushy job for the most part and they don't want their lives spoilt by people who don't tick all the boxes.

We really have an uncaring society now.

Ken Walters,
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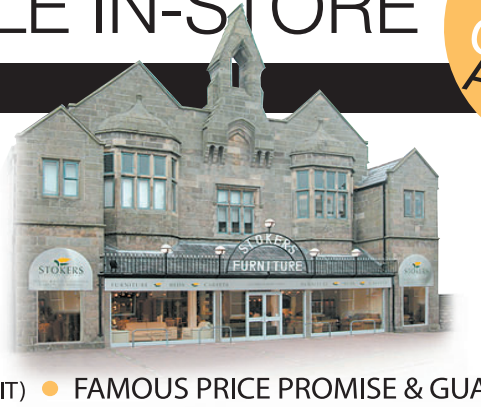

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Public's views wanted on community health

By Henry James

HEALTH chiefs in West Lancashire are holding a series of informal events across the borough inviting residents to share their experiences of local community health services.

The drop–in events will be attended by senior representatives from NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust and Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, and will focus on community health services.

People will be able to talk about their experiences with GPs, district nurses and community matrons, mental health services, podiatry, dieticians, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists.

Greg Mitten, board member of NHS West Lancashire CCG who oversees patient and public involvement, said: "We hold these events to give everyone a chance to raise their views on community health services. We don't just want to hear about what's gone well, but would also welcome any feedback on what's not and where we can improve.

"The events are open to all ages but we are especially interested in hearing from individuals who are 65 years old and over, with one or more long–term conditions. Each event runs for two hours but you can drop in any time for as long as you like. We look forward to welcoming your views."

Details of the events are as follows:

- Wednesday, June 24, Up Holland Library, 2 to4pm
- Friday, June 26, Tarleton Library, 10am to noon
- June 29, Skelmersdale Library, 2 to 4pm
- Thursday, July 2, Parbold Library, 2 to 4pm
- Wednesday, July 8, Brookside, Ormskirk, 6 to 8pm

Anyone wishing to discuss anything in advance can contact NHS West Lancashire CCG by email at myview@westlancashireccg.nhs.uk or by post at NHS West Lancashire CCG, Hilldale, Wigan Road, Ormskirk, L39 2JW.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton, Bootle, Formby, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale areas & Paul is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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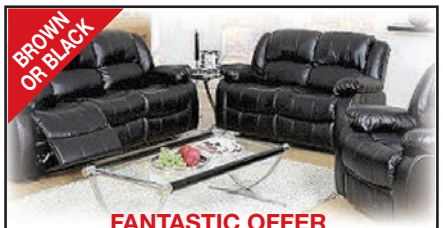

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Baton change at band

Report by **Henry James**

AN award–winning West Lancashire musical ensemble have appointed a new musical director.

Karl Stott is taking over the baton at the Skelmersdale Prize Band from Dave Chapman who had been with the group since 2011.

With an impressive musical background, including a degree in conducting and performance at Salford University, Karl has been a player with Northop Silver Band for 10 years and also helped Northop Brass win their fourth section national title in 2014.

As a conductor he gained valuable experience with Northop Youth Band, who he led for nine years, and Greenalls Band who were under his baton for five years, before he opted to take a break from banding in 2012.

After completing a post–graduate diploma in primary education at Edge Hill University, the opportunity with Skelmersdale Prize Band gave Karl the chance to return to banding.

A spokesperson for the band, who rehearse twice a week at their base in old Skelmersdale, said: "The band and committee would like to wish Karl success and enjoyment in what is sure to be an exciting new era for all. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank departing musical director, Dave Chapman, who is leaving the band, along with his partner and soprano cornet player Jemma Gaskell, to take an exciting career opportunity in Mexico."

Over to you...Dave Chapman (right) wishes Karl Stott well in his new role

Since joining the band as musical director in 2011, having previously been involved with the youth band section as a trombone player, Dave helped them to grow in confidence, achieving impressive contest results. In recent months they have won first, second and third place trophies in various competitions, as well as qualifying for the national finals in Cheltenham in September.

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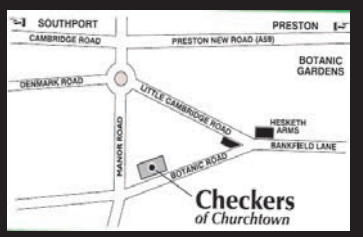

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Late arrivals cause a flutter at Martin Mere

By Danielle Thompson

The newly–hatched nenes at Martin Mere

THREE goslings native to Hawaii have hatched at the Martin Mere Wetland Centre.

Only about 1,000 nene gosling (pronounced 'nay–nay' after their call) survive in the wild in their native Hawaii.

They usually hatch in mid–March but spells of cold weather have delayed their arrival this year.

The nene, also known as the Hawaiian Goose, is popular with visitors to the Burscough reserve – both adults and children – for being one of the birds that will actually take food from the hand.

It also represents one of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's greatest conservation success stories in the matter of breeding birds in captivity and releasing them into the wild.

The reintroduction programme started at Martin Mere in the 1980s when just three eggs were delivered to the centre. There are now approximately 60 Hawaiian geese in the grounds.

The latest goslings, born at the satrt of this month, have already attracted a lot of attention from families visiting the centre.

Sometimes known as lava geese, nenes are the only waterfowl adapted for life on lava flows.

An estimated 25,000 used to inhabit the Hawaiian islands, but following the arrival of Europeans in the late 18th century their numbers immediately began to decline and the introduction of the mongoose in 1883 seemed to seal their fate as it preyed voraciously on eggs, chicks and adults alike.

By 1907, the nene was belatedly recognised as a protected species, although this seemed too little too late and only 20 or 30 birds were believed to have survived by 1949.

A major re–introduction programme was launched by WWT founder, Sir Peter Scot, who brought over two of the only remaining nenes in the world from Hawaii and over tyhe years the trust went on to release more than 200 back into the wild, helping to save the species from extinction.

Mrs Pam Calvert

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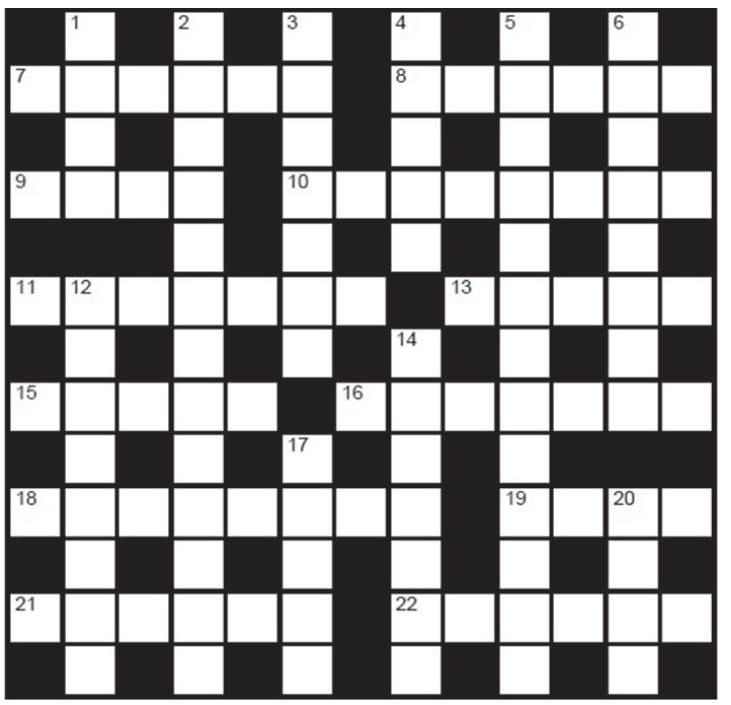

ACROSS

7 Almost (6)
8 The hair of the angora goat (6)
9 Person in charge (4)
10 Where you might find a sink, shower or toilet (8)
11 Female big cat (7)
13 Old-fashioned (5)
15 Young bird (5)
16 Japanese soybean dish (7)
18 Fortify (8)
19 Speck (4)
21 Firmly establish an idea in someone's mind (6)
22 Having existed for a long time (3-3)

DOWN

1 Brave man (4)
2 Decorative design and handicraft (4,3,6)
3 Cleansing lotion or informal term for nonsense (7)
4 Shatter (5)
5 Founder of a society or organisation (7,6)
6 Base unit of mass in the metric system (8)
12 Cruel (8)
14 Small glands located on top of the kidneys (7)
17 Ring-shaped coral reef (5)
20 Above average height (4)

Last week's solutions:
Across: 7 Paterfamilias. 8 Stanzaic. 9 Over. 10 Theatre. 12 Dying. 14 Slope. 16 Boycott. 19 Tsar. 20 Urbanity. 22 Educated guess.
Down: 1 Bait. 2 Hernia. 3 Affairs. 4 Smock. 5 Gloomy. 6 Hazelnut. 11 Hillside. 13 Forbids. 15 Piracy. 17 Concur. 18 Musty. 21 Tusk.

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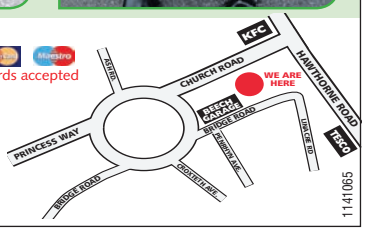

Benidorm star, Sherrie, to open 2015 Flower Show

TV STAR Sherrie Hewson is to swap the sun loungers of the Costa del Sol for the pier and promenade to open the 2015 Southport Flower Show.

Sherrie, *(pictured top right)* who has entertained millions of viewers in the hit show 'Benidorm', is heading for the resort as guest of honour as the annual show celebrates its 86th year.

The popular actress plays social climbing hotel manageress Joyce Temple Savage in the ITV1 comedy, her latest acclaimed role in a hugely successful 40–year broadcasting career.

Sherrie got her first break as part of the Carry On cast in the 1970s and has gone on to appear in many of Britain's best–loved TV shows including Coronation Street and Emmerdale. She has also been a regular panellist on the ITV1 daytime chat show Loose Women for more than a decade.

She will appear at Southport on Thursday, August 20, for the opening day of what is Britain's biggest independent flower show.

Sherrie said: "I was delighted to be asked to open Southport Flower Show. Gardening is my passion and my relaxation.

"I have had an allotment in my time but was never very successful at growing things, probably because I tried exotic fruits that need hot weather.

"I did try a grapevine when I lived in the south and did quite well until a freak June hail storm ripped it down! I used to trim my lawn with a pair of scissors until someone pointed out it was a bit of a crazy thing to be doing so I stopped but I can still be very obsessive over my lawn."

This year's Southport Flower Show will have a China theme and the 2015 line–up also features a food festival, amateur growers' competitions and entertainment for all the family.

Sherrie will be among a host of famous names at Southport including the award winning French chef Jean–Christophe Novelli.

There will also be masterclasses from some of the UK's leading gardening experts with Joe Swift of BBC Gardeners' World, former royal gardener Jim Buttress, Christine Walkden the BBC One Show's resident garden specialist and Channel 4's 'Landscape Man' Matthew Wilson all appearing at Southport.

Entertainment for all the family will include circus clowns Sonny and Rainbow and the Vander Quad Wheel of Death as well as birds of prey and dog displays.

General Manager Ray Roukin said: "We're looking forward to welcoming Sherrie to Southport and we're sure our seaside show will offer a day out to remember."

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Clutter of signs, poles and masts make our land ugly

I READ in a national newspaper feature a few weeks ago about a chap called Ian Nairn.

Now I've never heard of Ian Nairn before, and I should like him since he agreed with me on a subject close to my heart – the clutter that blights our cities, towns, villages and countryside.

I must confess though that said Ian Nairn sounds a bit too much like a zealot. So though I support all his ideas of which I read, I don't think I would want to go on holiday with him.

Still, this man quit his flying career in the RAF at the age of 25 and launched himself into a crusade to save Great Britain from totally uglifying itself.

Around 60 years ago he launched 'Outrage', which warned of us creating what he termed 'Subtopia', where development spilled over from our urban areas in one ugly suburban sprawl.

Sound familiar?

He also deplored the spreading mass of signs, poles and posters across our once green and pleasant land.

Now enough has been written in this and every other newspaper in the country about the green belt and its destruction, so I'll give that a rest for now.

What really angers me are the ever–spreading signs, poles and masts springing up in every street, road and increasingly country lanes as well.

Local authorities battle against shops using 'A' boards to advertise their wares as they are a hazard for the blind and partially sighted, but they are often the ones to increase our street clutter with a veritable forest of new poles carrying messages for drivers.

In recent months in my neck of the woods, the plethora of 20mph signs, all pole mounted on the pavement, has joined the communication masts, direction signs, those useless circular advertising things that no–one can easily read and in any case often endorse events which took place last year or the year before as a hazard to anyone with a baby buggy, wheelchair, or even two largish dogs (as in my case).

Many of these signs are duplicated, many are really not useful anyway, and frankly I reckon those directed at motorists can in themselves be a safety hazard as the driver tries to read an decipher the information instead of actually looking at what is going on on the road ahead.

Ian Nairn thought all of this building, erecting and general detritus on our highways and byways, would affect our physical and mental health.

Certainly my mental health is suffering because of the anger that builds in me almost every time I walk abroad and see not only the official clutter but also of course the rubbish strewn casually anywhere.

As to the physical – well I have actually walked into one of these posts supporting a traffic sign of some sort, the dogs have walked one side of an obstruction while I attempted to use the other.

As the article pointed out – we are all responsible for the rubbish and general litter that abounds – but it is officialdom which sanctions and erects much of the rest.

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Free pension guidance from Citizens Advice

IF you are a pensioner or approaching pensionable age and want to know how the recent pension reforms introduced by the government affect you, help is at hand.

Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureau is offering free and impartial guidance as part of goverment's Pension Wise service designed to help people make sense of their pension options and empower them to make the right choices for them.

The bureau will be delivering free face–to–face Pension Wise sessions which are available to book now.

The 45–minute appointments will be tailored to the individual, taking into account the value of their pension and their plans for retirement.

Guidance appointments are also available on the telephone, delivered by the Pensions Advisory Service or you can access information and general guidance online at www.pensionwise.gov.uk.

Diane Gradwell, chief executive of Lancashire West CAB, said: "We will be delivering Pension Wise appointments from 35–39, Market Street, Chorley and a number of sites across the region, including Skelmersdale.

"Pensions can be a confusing topic and Pension Wise appointments will help people to make sense of their pensions choices.

"Lancashire West CAB already helps people with retirement issues and we'll continue to offer this service outside of Pension Wise."

To book a telephone or face–to–face appointment, call 0300 330 1001.

Flying the flag for Armed Forces Day

LANCASHIRE County Council will show their support and appreciation for the contribution made by our armed forces personnel past and present and for the wider forces' community of families, veterans and cadets, by flying a special flag on Armed Forces Day, Monday, June 22.

The raising of the flag by local authorities throughout the country, marks the start of a week of celebrations culminating on Saturday, June 27 with the Armed Forces Day national event in Guildford, as well as hundreds of smaller gatherings across the UK.

The Lord–Lieutenant of Lancashire, Lord Shuttleworth, will hand the flag over to the chairman of Lancashire County Council, Margaret Brindle, at a ceremony at County Hall, Preston.

They will be joined by representatives from the Royal British Legion, armed forces groups, soldiers, council staff and county councillors.

Lord Shuttleworth said: "Having commemorated some special occasions already this year, including the 70th anniversary of VE Day and the 100th anniversary of the 1915 Gallipoli landings, Armed Forces Week has a continued significance for us all. We pay grateful tribute to all our servicemen and women, past and present."

Flag–raising events will also take place on June 22 in each Lancashire district, organised by district councils and attended by a member of the Lancashire Lieutenancy. They will be joined by councillors and officers from the district council and representatives of the Armed Forces and the Royal British Legion.

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Inspectors praise college's progress

Report demonstrates hard work of staff and students, says principal

By **Ollie Cowan**

INSPECTORS from education watchdog Ofsted have highlighted 'significant progress' made by the leadership team at a college attended by students from West Lancashire.

During their visit to King George V College in Southport, inspectors commented on the impressively short timescale over which this had been achieved.

In their report they stated: "Significant progress has been made in strengthening governance and performance management."

The assessment also found that the Scarisbrick New Road site had significantly improved its work in developing students' skills and confidence to complete assessments successfully in examination conditions and added that this has led to a "significant improvement in students' attitudes, and that they have a "high level of motivation and interest in their work."

Principal, Adele Wills, said the report demonstrated the hard work of all staff and students. "This is further evidence of the work we are doing to make the college one of the best in the area.

"We are continuing to work hard to meet the targets we have set ourselves and continue our journey back to outstanding.

KGV principal Adele Wills

"We are delighted with this positive feedback from what was another rigorous Ofsted visit and we are looking forward to seeing the results of this in August when we anticipate a bumper crop of results."

The college opened its brand new £4million arts and creative building on Saturday, June 6 and held a summer festival to celebrate the achievement.

Ms Wills added: "This investment demonstrates our commitment to our students, and will help them by providing them with state–of–the–art classrooms and learning resources.

"The facilities we have available to us are world–class and are backed by a dedicated teaching team who are striving to give students the best education available – and that's officially endorsed by Ofsted."

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Police and nurses team up for mental health response service pilot

By Danielle Thompson

A PILOT scheme aimed at helping people with a mental health problem who need emergency help has been rolled out across Lancashire.

From Monday (June 15) an innovative partnership came into force aimed at reducing demand while ensuring that people get the right assistance at the first point of contact.

The Mental Health Response Service (MHRS) will see police officers working in tandem with dedicated NHS mental health nurses who can make assessments and referrals meaning that people can get appropriate medical attention on the spot, rather than being taken to police custody or hospital.

In addition, from August, mental health nurses will also be working within the force control room where 999 calls are answered, monitoring calls and offering advice to those reporting mental health related matters.

Almost one in every four incidents that police officers attend has some sort of related mental health issue, which can often be a trigger for the incident itself.

Lancashire's assistant chief constable, Mark Bates, said: "We receive all sorts of calls where mental health is a factor, from those just calling for someone to speak to because they are lonely and depressed, to people threatening to commit suicide. This scheme is about taking action and supporting people at the earliest opportunity to prevent problems rather than responding to them. It means that individuals and families receive the most appropriate, quality support to ultimately build social resilience and create thriving communities.

"A quarter of the incidents that we deal with have some sort of related, and often complex, mental health issues attached. The MHRS will allow us to get upstream in helping those people to get the right response and support at first contact hopefully resulting in individuals being less likely to enter the criminal justice system and less likely to need the services of police and other agencies, thereby helping to reduce demand on all frontline services."

War horse talk in aid of ex–servicemen

A TALK entitled 'Lathom's War Horses' will be held at the Skelmersdale Wardens Social Club, Blaguegate Lane, on Thursday, June 25, starting at 7.30pm.

Organised by the Lathom Park Trust, it will tell the story of the First World War Remount Depot at the park.

Tickets, priced £3, will be available on the door and procceds will go to the Skelmersdale Ex–Servicemen's Association.

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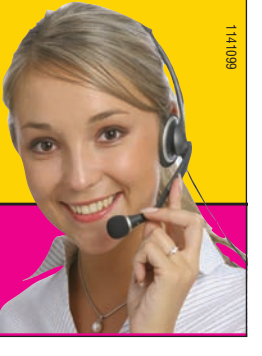

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Restaurant plan for listed manor house

A GRADE II listed manor house with origins dating back to the 13th century could be set to become a restaurant if planning permission is granted later this month.

Moor Hall, Aughton is set in five–acre grounds with a lake and tennis courts and boasts five reception rooms, eight bedrooms and a Victorian walled garden. There is also a separate two–bedroomed lodge and a range of barns and stables.

It was sold earlier this year after being put on the market in January as a freehold by estate agents Savills with a guide price of £2million.

Plans submitted to West Lancs Council by Moor Hall Construction Limited include a change of use for the hall, outbuildings and gated lodge into a restaurant with extra rooms, as well as provisions for car parking and landscaping.

The submission describes the property as a country house with the main part dated 1566, but likely to have been built earlier, and with additions made in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The council's planning committee is expected to make a decision on the application by Friday, June 26.

Moor Hall in Aughton

Canalside village pub up for rent

The Packet House in Burscough

A VILLAGE pub that occupies a prominent position near to the Leeds–Liverpool Canal is up for rental.

The Packet House in Liverpool Road North, Burscough, which closed its doors to the public earlier this month, is listed for rent by Fitton Estates at an annual charge of £25,000.

The listing for the pub, which is also close to the Burscough Bridge railway station, states: "The property benefits from many fixtures and fittings, including a substantial bar area, commercial kitchen, furniture etc in addition to an outside beer garden overlooking the Leeds Liverpool Canal."

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Hobnob Club gets off to flying start

A NEW coffee morning club set up in Aughton has proved to be the residents' cup of tea!

The Hobnob Club, which is open to everyone, held its first meeting at Aughton Village Hall on Winifred Lane earlier this month and was attended by more than 30 residents.

One of the organisers, Julia Woolgar, said: "The Hobnob coffee mornings at Aughton Village Hall got off to an excellent start in May and the people who attended enjoyed home–baked scones and flapjacks."

Arrangements have already been made for the next two meetings on Wednesday, June 24 and Wednesday, July 8, both starting at 11am.

At the June 24 meeting there will be a bring–and–buy sale and the July 8 wil feature a collection of small items suitable for charity shoeboxes for the International Aid Trust.

Julia added: "Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a cup of coffee and meet up with friends and neighbours and make new links."

Gospel choir at Bickerstaffe

HOLY Trinity Church, Bickerstaffe is hosting Midsummer Praise on Friday (June 19).

Described as a 'free gospel choir event', the entertainment gets underway at the Church Road venue at 7pm and includes a choir, dance and cream teas.

Church member, Edward McCarth, said: "It will be an evening to sing your heart out to, with great music, a gospel choir, dance and cream teas – what more could you want for a great, free, summer evening?"

For more information email westlancsedward@btinternet.com.

Bishop to join in Ministry Centre's anniversary celebrations

Christ Church Aughton's Ministry Centre

WORSHIPPERS will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the opening of Christ Church Aughton's Ministry Centre tomorrow (Thursday, June 19).

The centre is a versatile church hall complex including Cafe Vista, named after the view it offers across the West Lancashire Plain towards Blackpool, along with a large function hall and a first–floor facility.

Opened in June 2010 by the Bishops of Liverpool and Virginia, the centre is used throughout the week by various church and external groups.

To celebrate the anniversary on Thursday, the Bishop of Warrington, the Right Reverend Richard Blackburn (who laid the foundation stone) will be joining the vicar, Reverend Ross Moughtin and members of staff for a celebratory lunch in the cafe, which is staffed solely by volunteers.

Centre manager, Nick Walkden, said: "It's a real privilege to work in this great facility which is so well used by the church and other Christian–run agencies including the Street Pastors, Ormskirk Debt Advice and the food bank, as well as the wider public.

"Built on the site of the original church school, it is a marvellous thriving hub of the community. Young and old bustle through the doors with a busy toddler group and seniors luncheon club. We also host the National Alpha Course, some U3A groups and many other users."

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Rounders squad book county finals date

THE rounders team from Burscough Priory Science College have booked their place at this year's SPAR Lancashire School Games County Finals.

They defeated rivals from seven other schools in West Lancashire to earn the right to represent the borough and battle it out against others from across the county to be crowned Lancashire champions in rounders.

The SPAR Lancashire School Games, now in its ninth year, is the biggest school games scheme in the county, aiming to give every child the opportunity to participate in competitive sport.

In the finals, to be held at Stanley Park, Blackpool on June 30, more than 2,000 children will compete in sports including gymnastics, handball, football, netball, rounders, athletics, tennis and tag rugby.

The winning Burscough Priory Science College rounders team **Code1081496**

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WIN A FAMILY TICKET TO ST MARY'S COLLEGE PROMS IN THE PARK CONCERT

1141031

Crosby music lovers will once again be able to enjoy an open air Last Night of the Proms concert and fireworks extravaganza on their doorstep this summer.

Win a family ticket to the Proms in the Park concert (2 adults & 2 children) worth £50 by answering the following question:

Which of the following people is NOT a former pupil of St. Mary's College?

a. Roger McGough
b. Fran Halsall
c. Tom O'Connor
d. Joey Essex

Winner will be drawn at random. Email your answer plus full contact details to: **proms@stmarys.lpool.sch.uk** by 12 noon on Friday 26th June 2015.

For the fifth year in a row, St. Mary's College will stage the musical spectacular at its Blundell Park playing field on Little Crosby Road at 7.30pm on Saturday 4th July.

Proms in the Park will feature 250 talented young musicians from the College and its Preparatory School, The Mount, conducted by the school's Director of Music, Andrew Byers.

Compere for the event will be BBC Radio Merseyside presenter Roger Phillips and there will also be a special guest appearances by the choirs from Great Crosby Catholic Primary School and English Martyrs Catholic Primary School in Litherland.

The St. Mary's pupils will play all the old favourites from the annual Last Night of the Proms concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

These include Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No 1 (Land of Hope and Glory), Jerusalem, the Fantasia on British Sea Songs written by Proms founder Henry Wood and, of course, Rule Britannia.

The concert will finish with a performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, which will be accompanied by a spectacular fireworks display.

St. Mary's Principal, Mike Kennedy, commented: "The Last Night of the Proms concert has been a tradition at the school for many years now, but staging it in the open air in recent summers has brought a whole new dimension to the event. "Following the excellent feedback we received in 2014, we're hoping for an even bigger audience this year."

"They will be able to enjoy a concert that will be both a rousing way to end the school year and a wonderful showcase for the wealth of musical talent here at St. Mary's," added Mr Kennedy.

Advanced ticket prices for the concert are £17.50 for adults, £10.00 for children and £50.00 for a family ticket (2 adults, 2 children). Entrance is free for children under five.

For more information about the event and to book tickets please ring St. Mary's College on 0151 924 3926 or email proms@stmarys.lpool.sch.uk.

Specialist mental health support for military veterans to continue

MILITARY veterans in Lancashire will continue to receive specialist mental health support from the NHS following a competitive tender.

Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust will now provide the Military Veterans' Service in partnership with Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust.

For the last four years Pennine Care led the service across the North West as part of a pilot and to date has helped more than 1,000 veterans with a range of mental health problems.

The Military Veterans' Service provides mental health support to ex–service personnel for conditions including depression, alcohol and substance misuse, anger problems and post–traumatic stress disorder.

Following the contract award, veterans will continue to receive much–needed mental health support from experts who understand the impact of military service, as well as having sound knowledge of the local area. These include clinical psychologists, specialist psychological wellbeing practitioners and case managers.

Dr Alan Barrett, consultant clinical psychologist and lead for the Military Veterans' Service, commented: "It's fantastic that veterans in the area will continue to have access to a specialist psychological therapies service. Whilst most veterans are happy to use generic NHS services, many of those with more complex mental health needs benefit significantly from working with staff who combine excellent clinical skills with an understanding of armed forces culture.

"Some of our staff are veterans themselves and others have family members in the forces. Veterans have told us this makes a big difference in giving them confidence that the service can help them."

The new service will commence from July 1.

Veterans can self–refer to the service by either using the online form at www.penninecare.nhs.uk/military–veterans or calling 0300 323 0707 to speak to a member of staff. Alternatively they can speak to their GP, health and social care professional or voluntary sector worker to make a referral on their behalf.

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Charity's pat on back for keen canal volunteers

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

VOLUNTEERS are putting in more hours to help maintain and improve the region's canals, according to the Canal & River Trust.

Figures released this week by the charity, which oversees 2,000 miles of waterways across the North West – including the Leeds–Liverpool Canal in West Lancashire – showed that the number of hours worked by volunteers has increased over the last year by 13.75% to a total of 70,777 hours, the equivalent of 10,111 seven–hour days.

Volunteers take on a wide range of tasks that are integral to the upkeep of the canal system, including helping to keep towpaths clean and tidy, cutting back vegetation along canal and river banks, acting as volunteer lock keepers and looking after people visiting the region on boating holidays.

Groups of volunteers, organisations and local businesses, including the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society, help out by 'adopting' sections of the canal, making a positive difference.

Canal & River Trust waterway manager, Chantelle Seaborn, said: "We are very grateful to everyone who volunteers with the trust. They make the waterways a nicer place to visit, including providing a welcome friendly face for everyone using our wonderful waterways.

"Volunteers help with a wide range of tasks, from painting fences and clearing rubbish, assisting boaters through locks to collecting data that helps us look after many much–loved and endangered wildlife.

Explosion

"There are all sorts of opportunities to get involved, including some office–based roles. I know volunteers enjoy the social side of the role and the chance to get outdoors and meet people. It's a lovely way to spend your spare time.

"Many years ago volunteers saved much of the canal network from closure and have underpinned its survival in recent decades by continuing to support them. In recent years there has been an explosion of new people coming to volunteer on the waterways and this is a fantastic springboard to securing the canals' future."

• *For more information about volunteering on the waterways visit canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteer.*

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School summer fair date

THE Friends of Asmall Primary School are holding their Summer Fair at the school in Tennyson Drive, Ormskirk on (June 20).

The event will run from noon to 3pm and attractions include a bouncy castle, face–painting, brass band and games including 'Beat The Goalie', as well as stalls and refreshments.

A spokesperson for the school said: "Come along and enjoy yourself. It will be a great family day."

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Exhibition closing date reminder

Report by Henry James

TALENTED artists seeking to exhibit their work to a wider audience – with a chance to win up to £800 in prize money – are reminded that the closing date for entries for the West Lancashire Open Exhibition is fast approaching.

Each entrant can submit two original pieces of artwork that will be presented to the selected panel. The submission days for handing in work are Friday and Saturday, June 26 and 27.

All media entered will be considered ranging from paintings, printmaking, three–dimensional work and photography to sculpture and textiles.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "This annual exhibition is a fantastic opportunity and a great way to get your work noticed, especially if you haven't exhibited before. Work from all media is considered, which makes for an exciting and varied exhibition – just make sure you don't miss the deadline."

All the work selected is exhibited at the Chapel Gallery in St Helens Road, Ormskirk from July 11 to September 9.

First prize is £800, second prize £400 and third prize £200. Visitors to the gallery will also be able to choose the winner of the People's Prize, given to the most popular work on display, with the winner receiving the opportunity to exhibit at the gallery along with a £150 exhibition fee.

Large scale two–dimensional and three–dimensional works must be submitted by photograph only. The gallery should be in receipt of these submissions by Friday, June 26. They should also include a completed entry form and a first class stamp

For more information and to download an entry form visit www.chapelgallery.org.uk or www.westlancs.gov.uk/chapelgallery. Entry forms can also be picked from the gallery during opening hours (Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 4.30pm) or by emailing chapel.gallery@westlancs.gov.uk.

Persimmon Homes Lancashire managing director Mark Cook presents Lynn O'Brien with gifts to mark her 25 years of service

Reward for loyal Lynn

A LOYAL employee who has clocked up 25 years' service was given a pleasant surprise when the boss popped in to present her with gifts to mark her achievement.

Persimmon Homes Lancashire managing director, Mark Cook made the presentation to stalwart Lynn O'Brien at the Ainscough Mill sales office in Burscough where she is currently based.

Lynn joined the then Ideal Homes – subsequently taken over by Persimmon – when she was 21, and the company's marketing director, Diane Finch, commented: "To work for 25 years at one company is a remarkable achievement and we really appreciate the loyalty Lynn has shown."

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It's the best thing I ever did...

"Other than marrying my late beloved husband, George Webster, moving to Jones Homes' Priory Gate development is the best thing I ever did."

Pearl Webster, aged 84, recently purchased a two bedroom apartment at Priory Gate in Aughton, downsizing from a larger property on nearby Delph Park Avenue, where she lived for the past 50 years.

After finding it increasing difficult trying to run a house on her own, with all it entails including management, maintenance and gardening, Pearl was ready to move to an apartment. Wanting to remain in Aughton, Pearl went to visit the properties at Priory Gate and immediately knew this is where she would buy.

Pearl says: "Spacious yet compact, light and airy, and with all the assets of a bungalow but without the maintenance, the apartments at Priory Gate are lovely. From my lounge, I enjoy exceptionally beautiful views of the green open space that surrounds the development, while from my kitchen window I have views of vibrant and colourful flower beds, which I don't have to tend.

"The development is tranquil and pleasantly peaceful, yet with lots of new neighbours, it is also friendly and I feel very safe and content."

Pearl purchased a ground floor apartment at Priory Gate with the help of Hamro the independent part exchange facilitator used by Jones Homes. Pearl described the selling and buying of her new home as worry and hassle free as everything was taken care of for her.

Being that this is the first time Pearl has ever bought a new build property, she was thrilled to be able to choose her kitchen units, worktops and appliances as well as tiles throughout the apartment, something she took great delight in.

She continues: "Once I had made my mind up and decided to buy at Priory Gate, I was able to personalise the apartment by picking my kitchen and selecting tiles for the kitchen and two bathrooms. Jones Homes showed me lots of options and colour schemes, which greatly helped me, and the end result is exactly as I envisaged.

"Although I was downsizing and moving to a brand new home, I kept much of my furniture from the original house so the apartment instantly felt familiar. I couldn't be happier. The apartment is finished to an exceptional standard with modern fixtures and fittings that are excellent quality.

"The development is well located too. I have lived in Aughton for a very long time and I often go to Town Green Village and Ormskirk to visit friends and shop. I also go to U3A (University of the 3rd Age), my lifeline, a couple of times a week to meet friends and attend events. The local bus service runs right past the entrance of Priory Gate which makes it convenient and easy for me to get around."

As Pearl continues to settle in at Priory Gate, she is looking forward to fully enjoying her wonderful new home. She concludes: "I have a fabulous patio, accessed from French doors in my lounge, which I have yet to use. I plan to buy some garden furniture shortly so that I will be able to soak up the sun from the patio, chatting to neighbours as they pass. What more can I ask for other than good health so that I can enjoy my wonderful new home."

Priory Gate is located on Aughton Park Drive, with prices starting from £205,000. For further information, please call 01695 581358. Open Thursday – Monday (closed Tuesday & Wednesday) from 11am until 5.30pm. Alternatively, visit www.jones-homes.co.uk.

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Finale of popular musical brought 'tears to the eyes'

Review by **Ellen Campbell**

- West Side Story
- Maghull Musical Theatre Company
- Little Theatre, Southport

IN times of decreasing membership of amateur societies, Maghull have certainly bucked the trend with a credible 30 plus youngsters in the cast for their latest production, West Side Story.

The classic story of Romeo and Juliet is recreated in the back streets of New York City around the 1950s with two rival gangs (the Jets and the Sharks) feuding for control of the streets.

The Sharks are the Immigrants from Puerto Rico, trying to establish new lives for themselves and their menacing leader, Bernardo (Lee Ashall), while the leader of the American gang, The Jets, is the equally threatening Riff (Gavin Hodson). When, after several skirmishes, the two gangs finally square up to each other with knives, tragic consequences ensue.

Bernardo's sister is Maria (Kay Williams) and, like the different cultures of today, she is happy to adapt to the American way and integrate but the family are against her mixing. At the local dance she meets the man of her dreams, Tony (Matt Casson), a Jet, and it is love at first sight. Bernardo's girlfriend, Anita (Jess D'Silva) tries to dissuade Maria from seeing him but relents to pressure from Maria and goes to pass on a message to Tony at the Drugstore which results in awful repercussions.

The strength of this show lies in the song and dance routines, choreographed by Alexandra Ashall and Betty Hall. Enhanced by the colourful Latin American costumes, they were a delight to watch. The split second timing in the frantic fight scenes was spot on.

The 13–piece band, under the direction of Malcolm Fallows, provided all the zizz that one expects from this show which has four stand out numbers in Tonight, America, I Feel Pretty and Somewhere, all of which were beautifully sung. When Kay Williams sang Hold my Hand to her dying lover in the final poignant moments, it brought tears to the eyes of many in the audience.

Director Betty Hall is to be congratulated on a fine show.

Star Rating. 8 out of 10. An excellent production.

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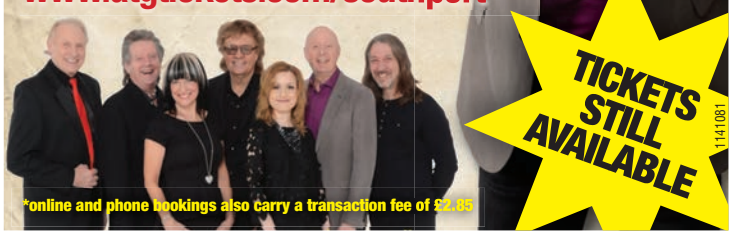

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TRAVEL COT Excellent condition, rarely used. Buyer to collect. £15–00 07771531635

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GENTS MOUNTAIN/LEISURE bike. Modern style, good condition. £60 01704 893118 / 07729 158010

LADIES TOWN / SHOPPING BIKE modern, retro, excellent £80 07783928210

2 PINE MIRRORS as new £10 o.n.o. 01704260160

BMX MONGOOSE hardly used, vgc £70 07950 340080

CARPET 2 rooms charcoal approx 4x4m +beige stair landing carpet gc £60 o.n.o. 01704260160

CARPET BEIGE 2 rooms approx 2.5.5m +2x3m £50 01704260160

FISHER PRICE ROCKER blue chair vgc £15 01704260160

GENTS BIKE 15 gears mountain style hardly used excellent condition £85 o.n.o. 01515263851

GIRLS BIKE Ridgeback Destiny 20 inch wheels. Silver. Aluminium frame – nice & light. Good condition £75 01695 581544

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LADIES RALEIGH MOUNTAIN Bike. Blue 18 speed Shimano gears. Hardly used good condition £50.00 01695 726001

LADIES UNIVERSAL BIKE 26 wheels 3 speed £15 01512871840

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BOYS EVERTON TRACKSUIT Brand new Everton tracksuit. Black toxic yellow. Trousers size LB. jacket XLB. £15.00 Burscough 01704896939

COCKTAIL DRESSES cocktail dress red with detachable shoe string straps with red ribbon sash size 10 cocktail dress lilac/grey pattern with darker purple rouched waist sash size 10 both worn once £15.00 each 07772525612

COMBATS pair of kids combats green 11/12 never worn £5.00 07772525612

DRESS FROM OASIS size 12 worn once light blue strap/strapless also matching fascinator May deliver £15 o.n.o. 01515263851

FASINATORS one purple with diamonte centre, one lilac with rose centre and feather detail £5.00 each 07772525612

FOOTBALL SHIRTS england umbro licenced football shirt red large, england admiral hurst no 10 shirt red large £15.00 each 07790791733

GIRLS CONVERSE PUMPS Girls converse pumps size 2 great condition. 2 tone pink and purple. Can be worn double laced. £10.00 Burscough 01704896939

GIRLS GUESS BOOTS GUESS Girls white PVC boots with fur tops. Zip sides. Size 13.5. Great condition £8.00 Burscough 01704896939

KAREN MILLEN White strappy leather sandals. Size 6. 3in heel. With box. Very good condition £10.00 07799841969

LADIES LEATHER JACKET Black ladies 3/4 leather jacket with buttons and belt. Good condition size12–14 £25.00 Burscough 01704896939

LEATHER TROUSERS Black Size 12 perfect condition. Never been worn £10.00 07799841969

MENS LEATHER CONVERSE BLACK, Size8, as new, Also sizes 9& 10 in denim, call for details, on what pair. Priced each pair. £15 07986135173

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RIGGER BOOTS V12 Rigger Boots V1250 Tom a Hawk Tan size 10/44 £15 01704 226845

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SPECIAL OCCASION SHOES Worn once satin ballet ivory shoes suitable for wedding/communion. In bag size 1 excellent condition £9.00 Burscough 01704896939

TED BAKER Black, chiffon, knee length strappy dress. Excellent condition. £10.00 07799841969

VINTAGE FOOTBALL SHIRTS 2000–2002 everton one to one home and away football shirts blue/white, yellow /blue extra large £15.00 each 07790791733

CLOTHING

WEDDING DRESS Maggie Sottero designer, style 'Paisley', ivory satin, lace up back, hand embelishments, dry cleaned, beautiful. UK 8–12.ormskirk £250 01695 570728

COMPUTING

BROTHER FAX/SCANNER copier printer, ex cond with USB+3D card slot, extra inks, buyer collects £60 o.n.o. 0151 922 7096

CANNON SCANNER silver hardly used excellent condition May deliver £18 o.n.o. 01515263851

DELL OPTIPLEX 780, WINDOWS 7 Dell black Optiplex 780 base with Windows 7 pro. No monitor. Very good condition, clean and been refurbished by IT professional. £150 01695 570728

GOODMANS TV+MONITOR in silver, ex cond, buyer collects, no remote, hence price £80. Single mattress in blue clean condition, buyer collects £10 0151 922 7096

IPAD COVER FROM M&S Tartan zipped iPad cover, from Marks & Spencer; new, still with tags on, unwanted gift. £20 o.n.o. 0151 520 2319

OFFICE DESK AND CHAIR Green leather top Mahogany pedestal desk 1950/60.s. 8 draws centre draw with lock/key 114W 53D 75H. together with green leather captains chair. all studs/buttons in place no rips tares etc. Buyer collects. £395 01704220356

DIY

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BATH SHOWER SCREEN sail shape, as new £70ono. bath white modern with taps, shower attachments £60ono. Vanity unit complete white £50 o.n.o. 07739 095473

BEECH DINING TABLE and 6 chairs (beech with black upholstery) Table has six slate inserts, photos available £120 01704 550489

BUNK BEDS white wood + mattresses £120 01695 556824

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NEW GARDEN TABLE and 4 chairs, was £300 now £100 quick sale 01695 733845, 07815 742861

3 SEATER SOFA Large Cuddle Seat. Good Condtion £220 o.n.o. 01704 506034

H20 X5 STEAM CLEANER 5 in 1. Plus a H20 super clean pack. £50 01695 556946

PARKINSON COWAN COOKER Good condition £30 07717 804159

VELUX WINDOW Mahogany wood £50 01695 725989

ROCKING FOOT STOOL Nice sized rocking padded stool, ideal for putting your feet up, or additional child visitor's seat, in good clean condition, would suit any colored room. £25.00 07530562650

2 COUNTRY STYLE WOODEN CHAIRS for use in kitchen dining room or bedroom spindled backs +spindle type legs not exactly matching but near enough not to notice will sell separately £20 EACH 07821417560

2 MATCHING TABLE LAMPSHADES peach colour oval shaped with fluted bottom and tassled trim. Reduced for quick sale. Bargain price. £25 each o.n.o. 07821417560

2 PICTURES both 17' x 33.5' mahogany frame with gold gilt edging of Edwardian elegantly dressed ladies – superb condition. Aughton area. £40 the set 07821417560

27 PIECE DINNER SERVICE classic stone, 4 place settings plus teapot, milk jug and sugar bowl – new £35 01519247929

3 GARDEN TROUGHS MEASUREMENTS 2x (32'x10'x10')1x (24'x10'x10')in natural coloured stone with tulip an leaf decoration very heavy good cond aughton area £20/£20/£15 07821417560

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HOUSE AND HOME

BEECH DINING TABLE Dining table & 2 matching lamp tables VGC leather trims no txts £45 07806727402

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BLACK SANDWICH TOASTER like new, hardly used. Green Park area of Maghull. £5.00 0151 378 3627

BLIND RUCHERED ROMAN cream linen still in box brand new size 4 feet wide cost £30 from Dunelm May deliver £15 o.n.o. 01515263851

BRAND NEW UNUSED Brand new still in sealed box build in gas oven, with integrated grill for housing 600mm in black, Model CATA 60ss decided to stay with electric therefore surplace to requirements£302 in B&Q 1'll accept £200 £200 07904370212

HOUSE AND HOME

BRONZE RESIN ORNAMENTAL MIRROR with cherub decoration – freestanding (not wall mounted)– something different. Excellent condition. £25 o.n.o. 07821417560

CARPET charcoal approx 3.5x4m +3x2.5m + beige stair+landing £60 01704260160

CHROME DOUBLE BED with new mattress, steamed cleaned, ex cond, buyer collects £80. large 2 tier black glass TV stand, up to 50', buyer collects £25 0151 922 7096

CORNER BATHROOM SINK White used small cloakroom corner sink and pedestal. One tap hole, I will include free used tap.good condition £10 01695 570278

CURTAINS Two pair of nice curtains both 54 inches wide and 54 inches drops, cream in colour, absolute bargain. £12.00 07530562650

HOUSE AND HOME

DAYBED, IKEA, BLACK Metal with mattress, excellent condition, hardly used £$50 o.n.o. 01704 879634

DINING TABLE AND CHAIRS 4chairs and dining table good condition £50 01704895161

DOUBLE BED spindle headboard and base, good quality mattress with frame Isobella bed, 2 years old, ex cond £80 0151 284 7330

DYSON DC25 Dyson DC25 for saleExcellent condition. Recently serviced which included new filters. Comes with combination tool. £100.00 07834607836

ELNA EMBROIDERY MACHINE Computerised hoop embroidery machine. Excellent condition, used once. Cost £999 last year. Same machine as Janome 350e. Maghull £600 o.n.o. 0151 527 2091

FAUX LEATHER CHAIRS 4 chairs need recovering legs are fine no txts £10 07806727402

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HOUSE AND HOME

FILING CABINET 3 drawers, vgc £12. antique pine bedside cabinet £6. Clarke sump pump, good working order £15 07534 675980

FOOD STEAMER food steamer and rice cooker never been used with user guide and recipes vgc £15 o.n.o. 01515317707

FRIDGE FREEZER under counter freezer like new £95 0169551314

FRIDGE/FREEZER Bosch, fridge on top, 170 h, 55 w, 60 d. good condition & working order. Buyer collects. £49 07749828975

GAS COOKER NEW WORLD Double Oven, in brown&cream, Tinted Glass lid, safety cut off, all working. Ring for details. Quick sale. £35 07980162415

GATELEG TABLE OAK GATELEG TABLE & 2 DINING CHAIRS £70 01704569530

GOLD FOUR SEATER SOFA Comfortable four seater rich gold sofa. Size D84cm/2ft9', H86cm/2ft9', L2m62cm/8ft7'. One seat has support board otherwise good condition, buyer collects. £45 01695573147

GOLD TWO SEATER SOFA Comfortable two seater rich gold sofa. Size D84cm/2ft9', H86cm/2ft10', L 1m43cm/4ft8'. One seat needs a support board otherwise good condition, buyer collects. £30 01695573147

HENRY VACUUM CLEANER vgc £40 0151 527 2392

HIGH SLEEPER Silver metal high sleeperbed frame similar to one in Argos Catalogue pg 1400Could deliver is local £85/– 01704 880582

HORSE TROUGH PLANTER large black metal planter measures 30 inches wide x 14' deep x 14'high. Never used, bought in error. Ideal for a floral decoration for a barn type property or stable. £25 0151 520 2319

HYDR8 WALK–IN SHOWER curved, complete with tray panels and fittings, good cond, buyer collects £400 o.n.o. 0151 928 5284

IKEA BEDSIDE TABLES Two matching bedside /occasional black metal Ikea Noresund round tables in good overall condition. £15 pair 01704 560270

KITCHEN UNITS Corn coloured fascias includes electric hob sink oven housing available end June Parbold 01257 462206 £350 01257 462206

LAMINATE FLOORING – OAK COLOUR HAD one pack left after laying the floor – brand new still in pack – oak colour – bargain £9 – pics available if required will suit cloakroom etc £9 01695 721973

MIRROR antique gold colour – oval shaped – 24' x 18'. Excellent condition. £40 o.n.o. 07821417560

NEST OF 3 TABLES in walnut, with carved edges and upper part of shaped narrow legs. The biggest is 22'x16'. Superb condition – bargain at £85 07821417560

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PAIR CAPTAINS CHAIRS Green leather with buttoned backs and studded seats well made/heavy/very good condition came from a restaurant told they were from the 1950/60, s £49 01704220356

PHILLIPS HOME THEATRE phillips home theatre, with blu–ray, 3D player, and blue tooth, brand new still in box.unwanted present. £160 01772933967

PINE DOUBLE HEADBOARD good cond £10. 2 three drawer pine bedside cabinets, good cond £15 for the two. pine wardrobe with cream doors, buyer collects £20 01704 536608

PINE DRESSING TABLE 8 drawers tabletop mirror+2drawers vgc £100 o.n.o. 01704260160

PINE WARDROBE Double doors height 6ft, Width 3ft, Depth 21'. Could deliver is local £25/= 01704 880582

RANGEMASTER GLASS LID Fold down glass lid to fit Leisure Rangemaster 110 cooker. Glass is not chipped. Other parts available. £15 01704 560150

ROYAL DOULTON LADY Helen, pale green dress excellent condition £45 07857713978

SILENTNIGHT DIVAN BED Excellent condition in spare room, 2 drawers and includes headboard, curtains and bedding, fantastic bargain Aughton £40 07736 329166

SINGLE HEADBOARD Single headboard in silver/grey with oval top and spindle effect details. Ideal for both male or female £10.00 o.n.o. 01704 875299

SINGLE TWO DOOR wardrobe painted in white with shelf and hanging rail £20 o.n.o. 01515263851

STOKERS COTTAGE SOFA 2 seater and 2 chairs, cintique fabric, strong wooden frame, vgc, can separate £300 o.n.o. 01704 569446

TABLE AND CHAIRS Teak extending dining table size150 x 90 x 75cm and 6 teak back and fabric chairs £30 o.n.o. 01704 213935

TABLE LAMP A very nice looking traditional oil style brass effect table lamp with unusual glass shade, old but not antique yet. £39.00 07530562650

TEAK SIDEBOARD H31'D19'L66' wooden sideboard 4 central drawers with cupboard each side on legs Ex cond Aughton area £125 o.n.o. 07821417560

THREE DUVETS One king size synthetic, One double feather & down and One double synthetic £10 01695421338

TROUSER PRESS Corby 4400 trouser press. Good condition. £15 07771531635

TV CABINET IN MAHOGANY WOOD specially made 2specifications for cabinet with 3 shelves decorative full length doors that fold in half to go fully back beautiful cond exc price aughton area £75 07821417560

TV GLASS UNIT one black and one clear glass £30 or 2 for £25. Excellent condition. FAN LIGHT white remote, perfect condition £50 01704562616

TV TABLE tv table with three shelves black glass chrome legs 32 inch wide vgc £15 o.n.o. 01515317707

UPRIGHT TUBULAR steel garden trolley £5 LADIES new 9ct gold chain bracelet, cost £25 – £10. NEW LADIES heavy gold–bond bracelet £6 01514767482

VACUUM CLEANER Electrolux Glider 126 Upright Vacuum Cleaner. £15 0151 922 1826

VARIETY OF PICTURES FEATURING wedding scenes, children playing, girl at pillow box, girl by roaring fire, girl at shop counter an many more mainly gold frames a couple brown wood all different sizes exc cond £15/£60 07821417560

VAX RAPIDE CLASSIC CARPET WASHER Good working order – used a couple of times. Surplus to requirements. Aughton area. £40 07821417560

VENETIAN BLINDS Dark brown Venetian blinds ex Dunelm. 1x50in drop x 54.5in wide – £10; 2x50in drop x 22in wide – £20; 2x61.5in drop x 22.25in wide – £20. Excellent condition. Buyer collects. £50 o.n.o. 07708416444

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QUALCAST PETROL MOWER Qualcast Classic 35s petrol mower in excellent condition £155 01704 573226

BOSCH 34 ROTAK Lawnmower 1300W electric corded cutting width 34cm 40litre box Excellent Condition £45 o.n.o. 07710661636

ELECTRIC POLE HEDGE TRIMMER 2.05mm total length 900w power cuts up to 20mm thick includes adjustable shoulder belt, blade protector, spanner. used once £40.00 0151–9314204

FLYMO easy glide 300, ex cond, 1 year old £45. Single flocked air bed with pump in box £6. Collaspible pet carrier cat/small dog, in box £5 0151 531 0856

GARDEN FLAGS Marshall flags 3x2 all for £2 each get in touch if interested. £2 each 07971691590

GARDEN PARASOL Two metre push up parasol. Wooden pole and green water repellent cover – still has tag on.Hardly used with protective cover. Give away price. £5 0151 531 7431

GARDEN SHREDDER Einhell electric silent shredder, takes branches up to 40mm 60ltr capacity large wheels vgc. £35 01695 722229

HANDMADE WHEELBARROW Good looking handmade wheelbarrow made from good quality wood and stained with varnish, including also a good variety of plants. £23.00 07530562650

HORSE TROUGH PLANTER black metal planter measures 30 inches wide x 14' deep x 14' high, unused bought in error, ideal for a barn, stable etc. £25 0151 520 2319

LARGE TABLE AND CHAIRS Large oval wooden garden table and 6 reclining chairs with orange cushions. 2 of the chairs need slight attention. £100 o.n.o. 01695423900

LAWNMOWER mountfield, self propelled petrol mower £50 01704 536766

ORNAMENTAL STONES Small amount of York stone, rockery and edging stones suitable for small project. £Free on collection 0151 924 7947

PATIO WALL CLEANER Aldi patio and wall cleaner. Brand new in box fits some pressure washers £10.00 Burscough 01704896939

SECATEURS Long handled secateurs £5 01704508765

FLYMO LAWNMOWER Hardly used. 1 Qualcast strimmer. Hardly used £40 01695 556946

SOLID TEAK TABLE 36' x 59' and 4 chairs with 2 grey granite inlays £85 01704 620814

VICTORIAN CHIMNEY POTS 2 x Victorian glazed crown pots (one has damage to crown – point missing 1 x 'pawn' and 1 small pot (has a chip). All in excellent condition. Can be viewed (Birkdale) £offers 07931626340

VICTORIAN ROPETOP PATH edging, approx 30 £30. Girls bike, as new £50 £50 01704 893562

WATER LILY'S Established water lily's. From eight pound's £8 01704566104

HOBBIES

AIR BED intex twin sized pillow rest air bed with built in pump brand new never used and boxed £35.00 07790791733

BARCREST FRUIT MACHINE Fully working, full sized fruit machine. 10p play £5.00 Jackpot. Buyer collects £50.00 o.n.o. 07817375292

CANON CAMERAS sureshot ex 35mm multishot film camera, snappy lx 35 mm point and shoot ixus elph aps 24–48 mm zoom with booklet £00.00 o.n.o. 07790791733

COLLECTABLE VHS VIDEOS dr who limited edition colony in space/the time monster tin box set, star trek 1–8 movie box set, star wars trilogy–special edition. offers £00.00 o.n.o. 07790791733

DESIGNER SET mans watch, belt, wall et, boxed gift set £10.00 07790791733

DIY MAGS complete collection of the knack diy project magazines 1–96 £10.00 07790791733

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GB STAMPS PHILATELIST retiring, lifetime collection approx 8500 stamps in DAVO albums, including accessories, total value £18,000 accept £8,000 o.n.o. 01704 229483

GOLF BAG AND clubs £15 o.n.o. 01515263851

GOLF CART BAG with trolley and clubs £30 o.n.o. 01515263851

MIRROR SAILING DINGHY Sail no 43376. Oars, anchor, lifejackets, cover, road trailer all VGC. Space needed. Southport £350 o.n.o. 07575744884

MOTORCYCLE LEATHER TROUSERS Sportex black 36w ex cond. £15 01704 570399

PIANO Piano, mahogany colour, will need re–tuning as it has been moved. £30 07825873311

WORDSWORTH CLASSICS BOOKS collection of 12 classic books; David Copperfield, Gullivers Travels, Three Men in a Boat, Trilby, Vanity Fair, Beau Geste, North & South, Great Expectations, The Moonstone, Talwes of Mystery & Imagination, Lorna Doone, Tom Jones £15 0151 520 2319

YAMAHA ELECTRIC GUITAR ERG121 Gigmaker (Black gloss)& GA–10 Amp. With cover and accessories. Hardly used – as new condition. Ideal for beginner. £130 077089 88182

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

22INCH WHARFEDALE COLOUR MONITOR CRO with audio ports for watching Freeview, good condition £40 o.n.o. 0151 5385623

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4 SCART LEADS 4 scart leads for connecting items to tv set. £5 Burs 01704895709

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CORNER SOFA leather and beige fabric corner sofa also pouffe and cushions included.collection only please. £100 01695570174

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SKY HD BOX Sky HD box good condition black colour. £50 o.n.o. Burs 01704895709

TV STANDS Grey TV stand glass shelves £20, black glass shelves chrome legs corner TV stand £30. £30 07749828975

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

MULTI GYM MARCY MP2500. Paid £375. Downsizing and can't take it with me. Buyer collects. Bargain. £75 01704 578602

GENTS GOLF CLUBS trolley and balls £50ono. Childs golf set with trolley £25 o.n.o. 01695 575955

GOLF CLUBS left handed (gents), bag, balls suit beginner £25. Golf trolley £15 01695 577087

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SPORTS EQUIPMENT

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TOYS AND GAMES

10FT TRAMPOLINE & NET trampoline for sale. Taken down because of space needed. bargain cost £99.00 £40.00 o.n.o. 07503218480

CHILDS GAME TABLE Multi play free standing game table. Football, pool, push hockey and basket ball. Measurementsto nearest inch, H30', L34', D23'. Can be dismantled for storage. Good condition, buyer collects. £35 01695573147

CHILDS GUITAR Multi functional guitar with 5 different types of music, Reggae, Electro, R&B, etc.Requires 2 batteries. Suit age 4+. Ideal gift, excellent condition. Buyer collects. £15 01695573147

FISHER PRICE CHAIR Fisher Price Pink Musical Learning Chair comes complete with 3 modes of play (music, learning and imagination) and a five page storybook. The seat activates songs and sounds for the learning, music and imagination modes. £15 07815769264

FISHER PRICE GARAGE Toy garage very good condition £15 o.n.o. 01704 226845

PLAY MAT Road playmat. 700x1000mm. Excellent condition. Smoke free home. £5.00 07799841969

SMALL GUITAR SpongeBob Square Pants guitar. Good condition £5.00 07799841969

TABLETOP POOL TABLE Miniature pool table 51cmx31cm 2 cues, felt brush and pool balls. Boxed. £8.00 Burscough 01704896939

MISC

6 BERTH TENT Cooker with grill, table, chairs and lots more included. £325 o.n.o. 01704 233245

3 MAN PROACTIVE TENT Blue 3 man tent, outer shell and ground sheet combined. Slight hole near pocket in inner room otherwise good condition, buyer collects. £25 01695573147

CAMP BED Single camp bed with metal leg supports and bag holder, excellent condition, buyer collects £10 01695573147

CAMPING GAZ BOTTLES 2.7kg valve and pipe –2 spare bottles for sale £10.00 01704 873529

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MOTORING

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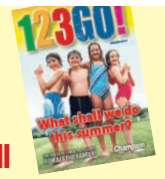

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Queenscourt
Queenscourt Hospice is an independent charity that provides support for the people of Southport, Formby and West Lancashire. We care for patients with serious illnesses, enabling them to achieve the best possible quality of life at each new stage. We help to do this both in the Hospice and at Home through our In-patient unit, Queenscourt Connect and Queenscourt at Home services.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER
37.5 hours per week, Permanent
£19,216 to £22,458 per annum (Dependant on experience)
Are you a passionate, skilled and highly motivated Community Fundraiser who can use these talents to turn plans and aspirations into reality? If so we would love to hear from you, Queenscourt Hospice is recruiting a Community Fundraiser to work within the West Lancashire, Southport and Formby regions.
The Community Fundraiser will be responsible for developing the charity's community networks effectively to increase income. To do this you will create innovative campaigns and products to maximise support and get the community excited about supporting Queenscourt Hospice. Some weekend and out-of-hour's work will be required.

INDIVIDUAL GIVING FUNDRAISER
37.5 hours per week, 12 month fixed term contract initially
£19,216 to £22,458 per annum (Dependant on experience)
The Individual Giving Fundraiser is a new and exciting post at Queenscourt Hospice, you will be joining the team at a crucial time as we look to grow support and diversify income streams. In this post you will lead the development and implementation of plans to increase individual giving to Queenscourt in line with the Income Generation Strategy.
You will have responsibility for delivering the Individual Giving programme working closely with key members of the team and focusing on the acquisition, retention and cultivation of both existing and new supporters. To do this you will implement direct marketing, legacy and In Memory appeals and campaigns. This post is initially offered on a 12 month fixed term basis with a view to a permanent contract.

FUNDRAISING ASSISTANT
37.5 hours per week
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£14,580 to £17,774 per annum (Dependant on experience)
The Fundraising Assistant is responsible for supporting the delivery of an exciting range of fundraising activities. You will provide excellent customer service to Queenscourt supporters and use your exceptional administration and organisational skills to aid the smooth running of the fundraising team.
As first point of contact for our supporters you will need to be a confident communicator with the ability to build personable and effective relationships. You will have a successful track record of administration ideally within a fundraising environment but this is not essential, including proven experience in using a database, ideally Harlequin database.
This post is initially on a 12 month fixed term bases however, there may be an opportunity for a permanent contract.

Closing date for receipt of applications: Midnight, 5th July 2015
Interviews will be held week commencing 20th July 2015
To apply, please visit the vacancies page of Queenscourt's website: www.queenscourt.org.uk/jobs Completed application forms and equal opportunity monitoring forms to be sent to recruitment@queenscourt.org.uk
If you would like to discuss any of the roles in more detail, please call Nicola Hanna, Head of Income Generation, on 01704 517420.
If sufficient response is received these posts could be closed earlier than the specified closing date, so please apply as soon as possible to ensure that your application is considered.
Only those individuals shortlisted for interview will be contacted.
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Presfield High School are looking to appoint a Unit Catering Supervisor and a General Assistant. Both positions are term time only.

Unit Catering Supervisor

Ref : LANCS03998 £7.88 an hour, 23.75 hours a week.

You will control food and labour budgets. Overalls will be provided.
Essential Experience: You must have excellent cooking skills and hygiene standards, experience in large scale catering and be able to lead a team and train new staff.
Essential Qualification: A recognised food hygiene certificate.
Desirable Qualification: City and Guilds ½ or NVQ equivalent

General Catering Assistant

LANCS04010 £7.85 an hour, 13.75 hours a week.
You will help with serving the children, setting up the dining room and cleaning the kitchen. Overalls will be provided.
Essential Experience: You must have excellent standards of hygiene.

Application details: Go to http://jobs.lancashire.gov.uk
Closing date for both vacancies: 26 June 2015.

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Some schools are excluded as commitment is on an individual basis.

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- *Round includes:* Fairburn, Feltons, Fawcett, Ivybridge, Ivydale, Inchfield

OLD SKELMERSDALE
- *Round includes:* Blaguegate Ln, Ormskirk Rd, Bromilow Rd, Firswood Rd, Taylor St, Dickets Ln

ORMSKIRK/AUGHTON
- *Round includes:* St Helens Road, Knowsley Road
- *Round includes:* Wigan Rd (part), Meadowbank, Oak Green, School House Green, Stonemason Crescent, Stoneyard Close
- *Round includes:* Grove Park, Pine Ave, Pine Dr, Pine Gr, Burscough Rd, Ola Boundary Way, Brooklands, Lonsdale Ave
- *Round includes:* New Lane

1141142

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or on the Lancashire County Council website

Closing date: 12pm on Friday July 3rd 2015

1141055

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Southport. w/c 22.6.15. 1 week. Call Leanne

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must have knowledge in Google SketchUp and Photoshop to assist with graphic design work and visual quotations.

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Announcements

CONGRATULATIONS

50 YEARS
GOLDEN WEDDING
Linda & Dave Lewis
19th June

CONGRATULATIONS!
Daughters
Joanne and **Fiona**
Son-in-laws
Steven and **Andrew**
Grandchildren
Sam, **Toby**, **George** and **Harry**

45539

DEATHS

Campbell Anne Lesley
5th June 2015
Peacefully in hospital aged 68 years.

Loving wife of Alan and cherished sister of John and Barbara. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Pauls Church on Thursday 18th June at 10.00am followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for MacMillan Cancer Support or British Red Cross. Donations and further enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31, Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

1141089

IN MEMORIAM

Edith Jackson
19th June

A year ago
you left us
and we miss
you every day,
I'm sure in time
the pain will ease
but your memory
will always stay
love
from all your
family
XXX

45298

Munro Sarah (Sal)
Passed away 19th June 2007

Eight lonely long years
without you.
Love and miss you
so much.

Love from Tony,
Gerard, John, Diane,
Matt and your
grandchildren Grace,
Caleb and Ethan.

XXX

45577

Fitzpatrick Marie
17th June 2013
Dearly loved friend of Ev and family
All the good times have gone, but the memories linger on.
Sadly missed,
Ev and family

45579

Howard Brenda
(Funny Face)
21st June
Thinking of you
and missing you
on what would have
been our 35th
Wedding Anniversary
James

45581

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

RIMINGTON SONNY

Elaine and her family would like express their sincere thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown and also for the cards, flowers and generous donations to Queenscourt Hospice. Heartfelt thanks to Dr Speed, Queenscourt Hospice, District Nurses and Community Direct for their tender care for the last 2 years. Thanks to Rev. Richard Gibbs for a comforting Service and sincere thanks to Howard's Funeral Directors for the caring way in which the funeral was carried out.

1141024

DEATHS

Williams Rita
3rd June 2015
Peacefully at home Aged 65 years

Loving wife of Don, Devoted mum of Viki, Naomi, Robin and sons in law Darren and Alex and daughter in law Marita. Special loving and cherished Granma to Jan, Alfie, Harley and Ellie Mae. A wonderful lady who will be sadly missed by all our friends and family. Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 18th June 2015 at 12.00 noon. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for the Macmillan Cancer Support. Donations at: macmillan-tributefunds.com/rita-williams or direct to the family. All enquiries to Co-operative Funeralcare, 22c Wigan Road, Ormskirk, Tel:- 01695 577244

1141056

IN MEMORIAM

Gallagher Frank
Happy Father's Day.

One Dad,
A million
memories,
Thought of
every day,
Loved
forever.
Loving sons
Stephen,
Paul
and
daughter
Julie
XXX

45297

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

Mellor Kenneth
June 20th 2015

First Birthday away
from home

Dad your painful
days are over,
restless nights
have passed,
you fought so hard
and you showed
me so much courage.
I couldn't be more proud
of you Dad.

But Dad!
Oh how I wish
I could see you today,
to hear your voice,
and to see your smile,
to sit and talk to
you once again.
Life to me is not the same.
Dad you should be here
sharing your special day.
Lonely is my life
without you,
Love always Kathryn
XX

You meant the
world to me Grandad.
Rest in Peace.
You will never
be forgotten.
Ben
X

45535

EMPLOYMENT

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Closing date for applications is 28th June 2015
Interviews will take place on 7th July 2015

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1141095

IN MEMORIAM

KAY TREVOR
21st June 2014

One year has passed.
I miss you.

If I was granted just one wish, I know what it would be, for the only thing I long for is to have you here with me.

Your loving wife
Ann
XX
Sadly missed by his loving family
X
Happy Fathers Day

45538

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1139121

SACRED HEART

45587

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ be adored, glorified and loved today and every day throughout the world forever. Amen

Say six times a day for nine days and your request will be granted no matter how impossible.

Publication promised.

A.C.

Saint Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us, St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless pray for us.

Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayers may be answered. Say it for 9 days and it has never been known to fail.

Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude

Instructions:
Light your candle and declare out loud what miracle you need right now. Repeat this prayer 9 times for 9 days. Do this at the same time each day, never skip a day. If you do, you need to start over again. On the 9th day give thanks, and say "So be it." Give it up to Saint Jude and let go of any worry. You will see results in 72 hours. Never use this prayer to manipulate or control anyone. Use it only with the best intentions.

This is the most important part of the entire process YOU MUST pass this miracle prayer onto others. Some people publish it in the paper, others e-mail it to their friends, and others post it a public building.

P.Y

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

S.J.K

Novena

Dear heart of Jesus.
In the past I have asked you for favours.
This time I ask you for this special one.
(mention Favour)

Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your heart where your Father sees it, then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine.

Amen

And this prayer must be said three times for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

S.J.K

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council

Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2015/0313/FUL Change of use from an A3 (cafe) to an A3/A5 (cafe/takeaway) and a variation of the existing opening hours to Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9am - 3pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9am - 2.30pm (then close) open 4.30pm till 9pm, Sunday 11am - 3.30pm at The Olive Tree, 58 Church Road, Tarleton.

Application No: 2015/0587/FUL Erection of two detached dwelling houses (Resubmission of planning application 2014/0612/FUL) at Land To The Rear Of 29, The Gravel, Mere Brow, Tarleton.

The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.

Application No: 2015/0611/FUL Retrospective application for the retention of an existing access track serving land to the rear of 6 Top Locks and access off School Lane at Land Rear Of 6 Top Locks, Wheat Lane, Lathom.

This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to the Planning Division, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Assistant Director Planning

Dated: 17th June 2015 PDNOT848

1141131

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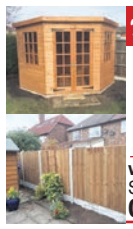

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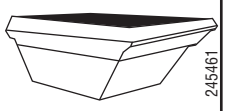

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An inconvenient truth about eco cars

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER

HERE'S some shocking news you probably weren't expecting – sales of electric cars have gone through the roof!

That's the message from the Department for Transport, which is proudly trumpeting the fact that sales of what it calls Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles are up 366 per cent from this time last year. That's plain English for not only the likes of Nissan's LEAF, which run on electricity alone, but plug–in hybrids like Toyota's Prius, which lace the eco–friendly cocktail with a spot of petrol power to spice longer journeys up a bit. It's a huge rise, which is why the Government's just committed to chucking half a billion quid at boosting ULEV sales.

But there's a catch.

Yes, sales of the sort of eco–friendly offerings that get Whitehall's official stamp of approval – and for that, you need fewer than 75g of carbon dioxide to escape from your tailpipe, or preferably none at all – are three times what they were a year ago. In the first four months of this year, Britain took 9,046 of them to its bosom. To put that into context, the total for all vehicles – cars, vans, buses, bikes, the lot – was 872,000. In other words, even with the huge surge in popularity the eco–friendly ones the Government's so keen to push make up barely one per cent of the total.

I'd be tempted to sign off in the same way my Maths teacher used to when I tried to pull a statistical fast one – a terse 'must try harder' – but that'd be skipping an even more inconvenient truth. You shouldn't dismiss the eco–friendly offerings as sales also–rans, because they're getting ever better.

The prototype electric MINI I remember driving five years ago has evolved into the brilliant BMW i3 and its i8 supercar sibling, the latter of which surely qualifies as the first truly cool plug–in hybrid. The Nissan LEAF might not be my cup of tea but you can't fault its ability to do humdrum hatchback things on volts alone. Best of all, the pub argument credentials for my favourite electric car – the mildly wacky Renault Twizy – has been strengthened by the fact Sir Stirling Moss has recently bought one. Oh, and it's mid–engined, rear–wheel–drive and tuned by the same people who do the Renaultsport Clio.

If you're seriously thinking of getting a ULEV, don't do it because it ticks the bureaucratic boxes. Do it because – once you get past the environmental flim–flam – some of them are actually really good. That's the real shock behind the sales figures.

David Simister is news editor of Classic Car Weekly

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Search recall history with ease

By David Simister

IF YOU'VE ever wondered whether your pride and joy has been issued with a vehicle recall then you might want to try a newly–launched website launched by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. If you enter your car's VIN number – a 17 digit code you can find on the registration document – the site can tell you if it has been affected by any recalls. Go to www.motorcodes.co.uk/vehicle–recall to try it out.

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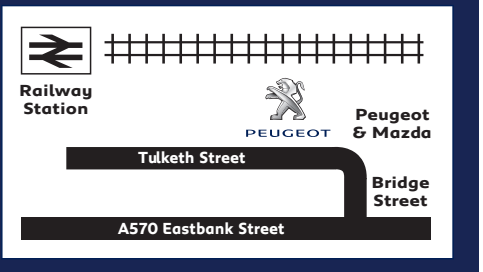

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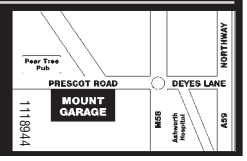

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Ormskirk just fail to force victory at Bootle

ORMSKIRK fell further behind leaders New Brighton in the Premier Division of the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition after being held to a draw at home to Bootle,*writes Glenn Wallworth.*

After electing to bat Ormskirk rattled up 237–6 dec off 51.1 overs, thanks in the main to skipper Matty Glayzer who fell two short of his century on 98, former skipper Ian Robinson 73 and 30 from Michael Jones.

In reply the visitors took the game to the wire, with Jackson Knight 44, David Snellgrove 32, Scott Butterworth 32 and Michael Gill 26 all contributing at the top of the order and Chris Cunningham 21* down the order, as they ended 13 short of victory on 225–9 off 63 overs, with Dane Currency 4–85 and Lancashire's Simon Kerrigan 3–73 taking the bulk of the wickets.

Formby remain in third place despite going down by a single wicket in a thrilling match at home to top of the table New Brighton.

After choosing to bat first the hosts were indebted to Lancashire's Stephen Parry 58 who top scored in a below par total of 147, with Ashraf Nawab 5–51 and David While 4–50 in fine form with the ball.

In reply, 50 from Andrew Clarke helped the visitors to 122–6 before the hosts hit back to reduce them to 128–9.

However the last wicket pairing of Mark Hale 12* and Andy Evans 8* took the leaders to victory on 148–9, with Parry 5–64 and Patrick Pisel 3–18 both shining with the ball.

Southport & Birkdale won by 2 wickets at Highfield after the hosts were put in to bat and thanks to Scott Lees (4–34) and Ian Sutcliffe (3–26) were bowled out for 140, with skipper Michael Farrell top scoring with 59.

In reply, Guy Edwards 36, Adam Phillips 29 and Josh Bohannon 27 helped S&B to 99–2, before a middle order collapse saw them lose 6 wickets for 34 runs.

In–form James McCombie steadied the nerves for S&B with an unbeaten 18 to take them to victory on 143–8.

This weekend's local LDCC Premier league fixtures (1pm): Birkenhead Park v Formby, Ormskirk v Highfield, Southport & Birkdale v Northern.

Burscough's winning start comes to an end after batting collapse

BURSCOUGH'S winning start to their Second Division season came to an end at home to Spring View on Saturday.

The visitors' total of 201 was built around a century from Akbar Rehman who hit 103 (12x4s & 2x6s), with skipper Rob Glaysher taking the bowling honours with 5–33. In reply, Ryan Hughes 62 and Navdeep Aujla 37 gave the hosts a great platform and at 114–2 looked set for victory, until a late order collapse saw them bowled out for 164, with Rehman 5–35 and Marc Birch 3–41 in fine form with the ball.

Hightown St Mary's lost by 7 wickets at Skelmersdale, after they had been dismissed for 114 with Bright Njanji 41 top scoring, whilst Akmal Ghafoor took 4–12.

In reply an unbeaten 39 from opener Ben Maddocks helped lead the hosts to victory on 118–3.

Fleetwood Hesketh dropped to fifth in the First Division table after a disappointing 7 wicket home defeat to bottom placed Newton le Willows.

After being asked to bat the hosts had no real answer to seamer Tahir Maqsood 7–31 and were bowled out for 88, with Neil Rimmer 34 and Dean Skelton 12* the only players to reach double figures.

In reply the visitors wrapped up victory in 23 overs as they reached 90–3, with Chris Cambers 28* and Danny Barlow 21* both unbeaten.

Ainsdale lost by 132 runs at runaway leaders Colwyn Bay.

Second placed Maghull had no game after beating Liverpool by 10 runs the previous Sunday.

This weekend's local LDCC First and Second Division fixtures (1pm): Ainsdale v Fleetwood Hesketh, Northop Hall v Maghull, Hightown St Mary's v Alder and Old Xaverians v Burscough.

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Bowls final joy for Catenians

MEMBERS of the Ormskirk Catenians were bowled over for joy when they reached the finals of the North West Catenians bowling competition.

The Catenian Association, a voluntary Catholic organisation founded in 1908, is made up of groups known as circles with members referred to as brothers.

The Ormskirk branch of the Catenian Association (Circle 285), which meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at Hurlston Hall in Scarisbrick, managed to reach the finals of the bowling contest against the St Helens' Circle but narrowly missed out on the top spot.

Andrew Pritchard, from the Ormskirk Circle, said: "It was almost a top victory for Ormskirk.

"We enjoyed an excellent afternoon at St Helens Bowling Club for the Catenian Province competition against Circles from four other provinces and the event took place in beautiful sunshine.

"The Ormskirk President arrived to spectate, only to be told he was performing! Luckily our player Sid Moy had a spare set of bowls and so the competition began.

"Our players Eddie McGuire and Tony Charnock had a hard tussle with the first team from St Helens and after a close match St Helens won.

"Sid Moy and our player Tony Devine beat the St Helens' second team and then the Birkenhead Circle in the semi–final. They were on great form and in a very closely contested final beat South Liverpool to win the trophy and allow Ormskirk Circle to have the honour of organising the competition next year!"

From left, Ormskirk Catenians bowling club players Did Moy, Mike Kelly (Provincial President) and Tony Devine.

• For more information or to join the Catenians, visit thecatenians.co.uk or contact Ian Robinson on 01257 462100 or by email at r.i.robinson60@btinternet.com

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